



# BEAUFORT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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July 8, 1994

NIOSH

Robert A. Taft Laboratories

Mail Stop C-34

4678 Columbia Parkway

Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Dear Mr. Taft

As a healthcare professional currently employed in an acute care facility, I support the proposed standard regarding Respiratory Protective Devices as a first step in improving the certification process. This first step recognizes that the certification process finally addresses the health care setting and the 95% filter efficiency should be acceptable for most health care worker needs.

There is little documentation to support that previous and existing Respiratory Isolation has not protected the healthcare worker from contracting TB. As the cost of health care rises, added costs must be held to a minimum. The use of a 95% filter efficiency mask should be acceptable. It will be much more efficacious to have the healthcare worker done the mask and wear it for patient care, than to resist wearing the mask that is currently recommended.

Please recognize my support of the proposed rule on Respiratory Protective Devices referenced in the Federal Register, Tuesday, May 24th (42CRF 84, Vol. 59, No. 99, pp.26850-26893). This proposal would enable manufacturers to produce a broader range of certified respirators which provide the necessary level of protection and which would be more cost effective for health care organizations.

Sincerely,

Teresa Shelton-Welch, R.N., Nurse Manager

JUL 18 1994