



# Fresno Community Hospital and Medical Center Community Hospitals of Central California

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July 18, 1994

NIOSH DOCKET OFFICE  
Robert A. Taft Laboratories  
MALL STOP C34, 4678 COLUMBIA PARKWAY  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45226

R.E. COMMENT REGARDING RESPIRATORS IN TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION.

Dear Representative;

Please support the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC) in their recommendation of respirator selection for use in the prevention of occupational T.B. transmission. I have worn the HEPA type respirators in my current job and I find that they are very difficult to use as per label. Obtaining the correct respirator seal is often very time consuming, the mask's valve sticks, the seal is broken when talking during extended conversations with patients, and the humidity in one's breath increases the resistance to breathing in the mask. The HEPA masks are much more expensive than other masks which are nearly as effective. As with other occupations the front line personnel resist changes which increase discomfort and decrease the ability to communicate. I have found that the simpler respirators to be much more well received by people I've observed.

I have been in health care for over 22 years, working with the sickest respiratory patients and being exposed to T.B. in the high risk procedures of Pulmonary Function testing and endotracheal suctioning. As of this date I have yet to convert my T.B. skin test even though I was assured, upon entering this field, that I would develop a positive skin test with in the first year in my profession.

Cordially yours;  
Dale E. Claes RRT, RCP, B.S.  
Supervisor Respiratory Care

c.c.: APIC

JUL 20 1994