

July 11, 1994



BON SECOURS-ST. FRANCIS XAVIER HOSPITAL
Bon Secours Health System

NIOSH Docket Office
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
Mail Stop C34
4678 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Dear Sirs:

This letter is in reference to NIOSH's proposed rule on Respiratory Protective Devices (42CFR 84, Vol. 59, No. 99, pp 26850-26893) published in the Tuesday, May 25, 1994, Federal Register.

We wish to voice our support of the proposed standard as an initial step in improving the respiratory device certification process. We feel this proposal better addresses respiratory protection for health care workers caring for patients with known or suspected TB. The proposed recommendations are more practical to implement, are less expensive and still provide adequate protection. This will enable manufacturers to produce a broader range of respirators at a lesser cost. We also feel the Dust Mist Respirator provides an adequate level of protection verses the HEPA filter mask, in most settings. The use of Dust Mist is less of a financial burden, provides adequate protection, is easier to wear and utilize, and assumes a higher level of compliance among health care workers.

Please consider our opinion when making the final recommendation for Respiratory Protective Device.

Sincerely,

C. Michael Wolff, MD
Chairman
Infection Control Committee

Rebekah Fuhrman, RN, BSN
Infection Surveillance Nurse

CMW/RF:kg

JUL 15 1994