Message

From: Steven Hatfill
on behalf of Steven Hatfill
Sent: 3/16/2020 8:27:40 AM
To: Peter Navarro@protonmail.com
Subject: memo 3 2/16/2020
MEMO  THREE TO COVID-19 TASK FORCE
THROUGH COS, NSA
FROM  PETER  NAVARRO
RE: URGENT DMRO INVENTORY AND REFURBISHMENT OF ALL RESPIRATORY VENTILATORS OF ANY TYPE/RECLASSIFICATION OF N-95 SURGICAL MASKS (RESPIRATORS)

Recent data suggests the imminent need for intensive care beds with ventilation support may be 5% higher than previously estimated for some areas. We therefore face an urgent and immediate need to ensure an adequate supply of mechanical ventilators and their tubing accessories, the most basic medical equipment such as the normal N-95 HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) (HEPA) surgical-type mask. This N-95 mask is necessary for all individuals working with a coronavirus-infected patient at any stage of the patient’s infection. Somehow, these simple devices have been formally classified as a “Respirator”. This means that under Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, these simple devices must now be fit-tested for maximum protection under OSHA standards.

The Defense Logistics Agency - Defense Reutilization Management Office, maintains large warehouses containing older, but still functional equipment. This equipment can be rapidly refurbished, tested and returned to service.

Fit-Testing requires a $300 (+/-) Test Kit which is nothing more than a plastic bag and a few cheap plastic atomizers (probably most likely with components or component parts made in China). In addition, the test kits contain several small bottles with a sweet and bitter test solution. Refills of these simple solutions are around $19 Dollars.

OSHA has gone to maximum lengths to complicate a pandemic response by requiring that institutions using these simple face masks must have their employees fit-tested by a Certified “Fit-Tester”. A paper or electronic record must then be filled out and signed by the Tester and then this form must be retained by the institution to prove the employee had been tested. This process must be repeated every year.

There is a more complicated Electronic Fit-Testing machine that can be used, but installing the probe into the mask destroys the mask for use once it has been tested. So theretested, meaning that there is no way to know that the mask the employee is actually using, is actually working using is actually working.

These Electronic Testers cost $335 to $2000 Dollars each, plus the costs of the Tester performing the tests.

Fit-Testing was originally designed for working with dangerous chemical agents for industry and the military. Not for simple surgical masks with an advanced filtration area. This is a prime example of over regulation, and these masks should never have been classified as respirators in the first place.
Recommendations

1. The President, through the SecDef, should immediately task the Defense Logistics Agency - Defense Reutilization Management Office, to conduct an immediate inventory of all mechanical respiratory ventilators of all makes and models located in DRMO and other federal agency warehouses. Have the FDA urgently reclassify the N-95-type surgical masks as “Enhanced Surgical Masks”. They are not respirators.

2. All still serviceable items should be refurbished and tested as quickly as possible and added to the Strategic National Stockpile as a backup inventory.

3. This needs to be a crash program.