

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: July 12, 2006

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)

Subj: Reimbursement for N95 Mask Purchases is Now Available as Part of VA's VAMC Mass-Casualty Decon Program

To: Network Directors (10N1-23)

1. Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) implementing VA's emergency mass-casualty decontamination program now have the opportunity to make reimbursable purchases of up to \$22,725 for N95-level respirator masks, consistent with VHA's preparation for emergency response to pandemic flu.

2. This reimbursement effort will assist facilities with the stockpiling of N95-level masks in preparation for a possible influenza pandemic, and it will augment supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) supplied previously under the decontamination program.

3. We have identified two types of N95 masks that are reimbursable under this program, they are:

- 3M 1860 N95 Healthcare Mask
- 3M 1860S Small Health Care Mask

4. The 3M 1860 N95 Healthcare Mask can be purchased from one of the five vendors listed below. These companies currently have contracts for medical equipment and supplies under VA's Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) 65-IIA. The table beneath the list of vendors includes ordering specifications.

- 1) Cardinal Healthcare (FSS Contract No. V797P-3492k)
- 2) Kimberly Clark (FSS Contract No. V797P-3767k)
- 3) Medline (FSS Contract No. V797P-4144a)
- 4) 3M (FSS Contract No. V797P-4748a)
- 5) Tyco (FSS Contract No. V797P-4408a)

FSS Contract No.	SIN	Catalog No.	Product Description	FSS Price	UOM Priced	Unit of Sale UOM	No. of Inner Packs	Inner Pack UOM	No. of Base Packs	Base Pack UOM	Qty Within Base Pack
478A	A-33a	1860	3M Health Care Particulate Respirator Type N95; Regular	\$9.95	BX	CA	120	BX	20	EA	1
478A	A-33a	1860S	3M Health Care Particulate Respirator Type N95; Small	\$9.95	BX	CA	120	BX	20	EA	1

5. Reimbursement will be provided by the Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards (13) for purchases of up to \$22,725 per VISN. To participate in this program interested VISNs should have their representative send an e-mail by August 1, 2006, stating the exact cost of the purchase against a specific Obligation Number, to Mr. John E. Kraemer (131) at john.e.kraemer@va.gov.

6. In addition to the Obligation Number, there are several other numbers or codes listed below that we require from each VISN to process the reimbursement transaction. Once we receive these reference numbers, we can promptly reimburse the VISN that has placed the order. Importantly, VISNs will have to use Network funds up-front to make the purchase, but they do not have to wait until actual delivery of the product to submit these numbers to us. We require the following reference numbers:

- Obligation Number
- FMS facility number recording the obligation
- Appropriation Number
- Obligation Number
- Fund Number
- FCP
- Cost Center
- ACC
- BOC
- Amount

7. This program is time limited. We are under fiscal year time constraints with respect to processing reimbursement requests. VISNs wishing to participate must submit the required reference information to us by August 1, 2006. We expect, but cannot guarantee, that all reimbursement requests submitted by that date will be processed.

8. If you have any questions about this program and schedule, please contact Dr. Mark Brown, Director, Environmental Agents Service, at mbrown1@hq.med.va.gov or at (202) 273-8579.

/Signed/

William F. Feeley, MSW, FACHE