

Facemask and Respirator Use in a Pandemic

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued new interim recommendations for mask and respirator use for home, community, and occupational settings for the prevention of infection with the new H1N1 influenza virus.

Based on the current CDC guidance, the Department of Energy (DOE) does not recommend mandatory use of facemasks or respirators by employees in occupational settings to prevent influenza exposure. DOE will continue to follow existing CDC and OSHA requirements for voluntary use of respiratory protection in managing its employees.

Additional information on facemask and respirator use can be found at:

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/vaccine/mask.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/masks.htm>