



State of Maryland

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To: All EMS Operational Programs

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RE: Use of Expired Face Masks and N-95 Respirators

Given the nature of stockpiled supplies with expiration dates, it is certain that some materials will “expire” before they are used. Nevertheless, despite passing a specified date, the material may remain effective for its intended purpose. With regard to N-95 respirators, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued guidance that expired respirators may be used and considered effective.

We offer the following guidance. If facemasks or N-95 respirators have been stored appropriately, without exposure to excessive moisture or extreme temperatures, and show no evidence of deterioration that would affect their fit or function, then they are appropriate to be used for their intended purpose as personal protective equipment, despite displaying a passed expiration date when no unexpired option exists.