KN95 Guidance: Updated CDC and OSHA Requirements

Prior to January 28, 2022 OSHA would only allow the distribution of N95 masks according to official guidance in Standard Number: 1910.134- Title: Respiratory protection. After January 28, OSHA aligned itself with CDC guidance on masks and respirators. OSHA now considers KN-95 filtering face piece respirators due to the COVID 2019 Pandemic. Though they are not NIOSH approved OSHA has adopted CDC guidance effective January 28, 2022 and consider them equivalent to N-95 (also called dust masks) as true respirators. See Summary of Recent Changes. Guidance from OSHA indicates that KN95 may be distributed to those in the workplace as long as those masks/respirators meet a standard. The BYD KN95s meets the international standards for listed in the FDA’s Emergency Use Authorization and have the proper markings, GB2626-2006, indicating the conformance with those international standards.

The BYD Model DG3101 tests results were that the maximum and minimum filter efficiency was 99.78% and 95.03%, respectively.

Library staff should read information about the BYD KN95 and how it should be worn properly, know that there is a difference between a N95 and KN95 respirators as well as other masks options. Wearing the KN95 must be voluntary.

Library directors and/or library governance may consider having staff sign off/acknowledge they understand that they are voluntarily wearing the KN95 mask for OSHA purposes.

Marcela Peres, Director at the Lewiston Public Library, has developed a Voluntary Use Form in accordance with this guidance and guidance from their Safety Officer.