Team –

Some of you may have heard that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) changed the approval process for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) KN95 respirators made in China. The supplier who we purchased respirators from was previously cleared for approval, however the change in the approval process means they have to be reapproved by the FDA. The changes are designed to better ensure security and reliability.

This change does not mean that the respirators that were supplied by our vendor do not meet the required safety standards. It simply means that they now need to go through another approval process.

That said, we are temporarily discontinuing use of these respirators until they can be re-approved by the FDA. As a result, we are pausing the reopening of any additional offices until such time or until an alternative, approved respirator has been secured.

For those offices that received KN95 respirators, please hold on to your supply. Since they were previously certified, we believe they will receive recertification and be able to be used in the future.

We do not know the timing for the recertification which means this will delay the reopening of offices identified for Wave 2 and the following waves. While we await the recertification process, we are already sourcing respirators from the current short list of approved suppliers.

This is a challenging time and information continues to remain fluid. I know this is frustrating, but the health and safety of our employees continue to be our top priority. We must ensure individuals have the approved personal protective equipment when caring for patients.

Updates will be shared as soon as they are available.

Dr. Liz Rydell