



SPRINGS
MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL

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NIOSH Docket Office
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
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4678 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my support for the reclassification of respirators. As the Infection Control Coordinator for a 196 bed facility, I have documented that PPD conversions at our hospital were lowered with early identification and isolation of suspect and/or proven TB patients. This was accomplished while using a submicron mask for AFB isolation. Our PPD conversion rate was 0 % for 1993 and remains so through second quarter 1994. We had 4 cases of MTB in 1993 and 1 case so far this year. With the current OSHA recommendations, we are required to change from a submicron mask that is apparently working to a HEPA-filtered respirator. Please consider the above as you determine the future of respiratory protection in healthcare.

Sincerely,

Renee' M. Funderburk, RN CIC
Infection Control Coordinator

cc: SCHA
APIC Palmetto

JUL 20 1994