

July 5, 1994

Suzanne M. Sherman, RN
Infection Control
Toledo Mental Health Center
930 S. Detroit Ave.
Toledo, OH 43614-2701

Dear NIOSH Docket Office,

As a member of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC), as well as an Infectious Disease Control Practitioner in a state psychiatric facility, I am writing to support tuberculosis mask certification testing.

HEPA masks are uncomfortable as well as very costly. For institutions that send persons requiring respiratory isolation to a general hospital (due to no respiratory isolation rooms) dust-mist-fume respirators are more than adequate. Dust-mist-fume respirators are also more comfortable, therefore meeting with less resistance from staff to wearing them, as well as being less costly.

Early identification of active tuberculosis is the key. Emphasis on "zero risk" due to pressure by labor unions makes no sense. Guidelines/regulations need to be based upon scientific evidence.

Sincerely,

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