This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Decision Tree, developed by Emergency Preparedness Director Doug Trahey, is being made available to providers to ensure that informed decisions are being made regarding the implementation of a respiratory protection program, to include fit testing, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The guidance and standards referenced within this FAQ Decision Tree are not within the authority of the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) to enforce or investigate.

Due to the rapid implementation of safety measures by providers in regard to the COVID-19 emergency, it has become clear to ODP that providers have numerous questions regarding the fit testing requirements related to N95 and N95 equivalent respirators. Guidance and standards to make an informed decision come from OSHA, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

At a minimum, providers must read, understand, and interpret the standards and guidance provided below from OSHA, NIOSH, the FDA, and the CDC, in its entirety, for themselves.

If you have additional questions beyond this sheet, contact the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) PA OSHA Consultation Program. The Safety Sciences Department of IUP has been the officially designated agency in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for providing free occupational and health consultative services made available through federal regulations. The IUP PA OSHA Consultation Program can be reached at 1-800-382-1241 or online.