

WEST PALM BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT



N95 MASK ADDITIONAL INFO

April 10th, 2020

- The transmission of the virus, as documented by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO), is through “droplet transmission”. This droplet transmission is further defined as “coughing, sneezing or talking”.
- These droplets are measured at exit point of the nose and mouth (**immediate environment**) and measured to be 5 microns or greater.
- The International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and CDC both cite droplet sizes of 72 microns to 386 microns. According to 3M’s manufacturer manual, the N95 mask can protect its wearer against particle sizes of .3 microns or greater.
- This is well within the acceptable limit in the environment and particle sizes that we would be exposed to (i.e. close contact during patient care).
- The particle size of COVID-19 can be reduced through modalities such as nebulized breathing treatments. Hence the reason why we have suspended that form of treatment.

We will continue to follow the PPE recommendations made by the IAFF, CDC, and the WHO and continue the use of the N95 mask.

As always, the health and safety of our personnel is our number one priority.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/modes-of-transmission-of-virus-causing-covid-19-implications-for-ipc-precaution-recommendations>