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Sent:

Friday, July 31, 2009 10:26 AM

To:

NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)

Cc: Subject: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)

173 - NIOSH Respiratory Diseases Research Program Implementation Plan Comments

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Comments

A primary concern I have, from my practice in academics and directly with patient/workers, is that while PPE technology has advanced greatly it is still not employed frequently enough. I am in Canada now but we use and benefit from NIOSH guides, and I still care for the US workers. So, what are the obstacles to better employment of PPE (I am thinking primarily about masks for respiratory hazards)? I know that PPE is 'lowest' on the industrial hygeine hierarchy, but nonetheless, I still hear that masks are too onerous, uncomfortable, etc. I am not sure if we should envision a change of incremental nature or completely 'outside the box' but this is my concern.