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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Fit-testing of KN95 and N95 masks now extended beyond Mercy Home

EAGLE LAKE, Maine (June 1, 2020) – With a greater amount of N95 and KN95 masks now in-house, Northern Maine General has extended fit-testing of these medical-grade masks to its Waiver Homes and Franciscan Home employees. Fit-testing of masks at Mercy Home, the agency’s nursing home, started a few weeks ago.

Should COVID-19 manifest itself in one of the agency’s residential facilities, the specialized respiratory masks would be worn.

The fit test assures that a particular size of mask fits with a proper seal. Those employees who cannot obtain a proper fit from the available masks will be given an alternative piece of Personal Protective Equipment, such as a surgical mask with face shield. Each employee will be able to reuse a respiratory mask when possible, but will have access to more when needed.

“This is to make certain we maximize staffs’ protection, should they be tasked with caring for an ill client,” explained CEO Michelle Raymond.

Employees are receiving training on how to put the masks on, how to wear them, and how to periodically recheck fit throughout usage.

With still no consumers or employees reported to have COVID-19, the agency’s robust Pandemic Plan, with its many precautions, remains firmly in place.

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