

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

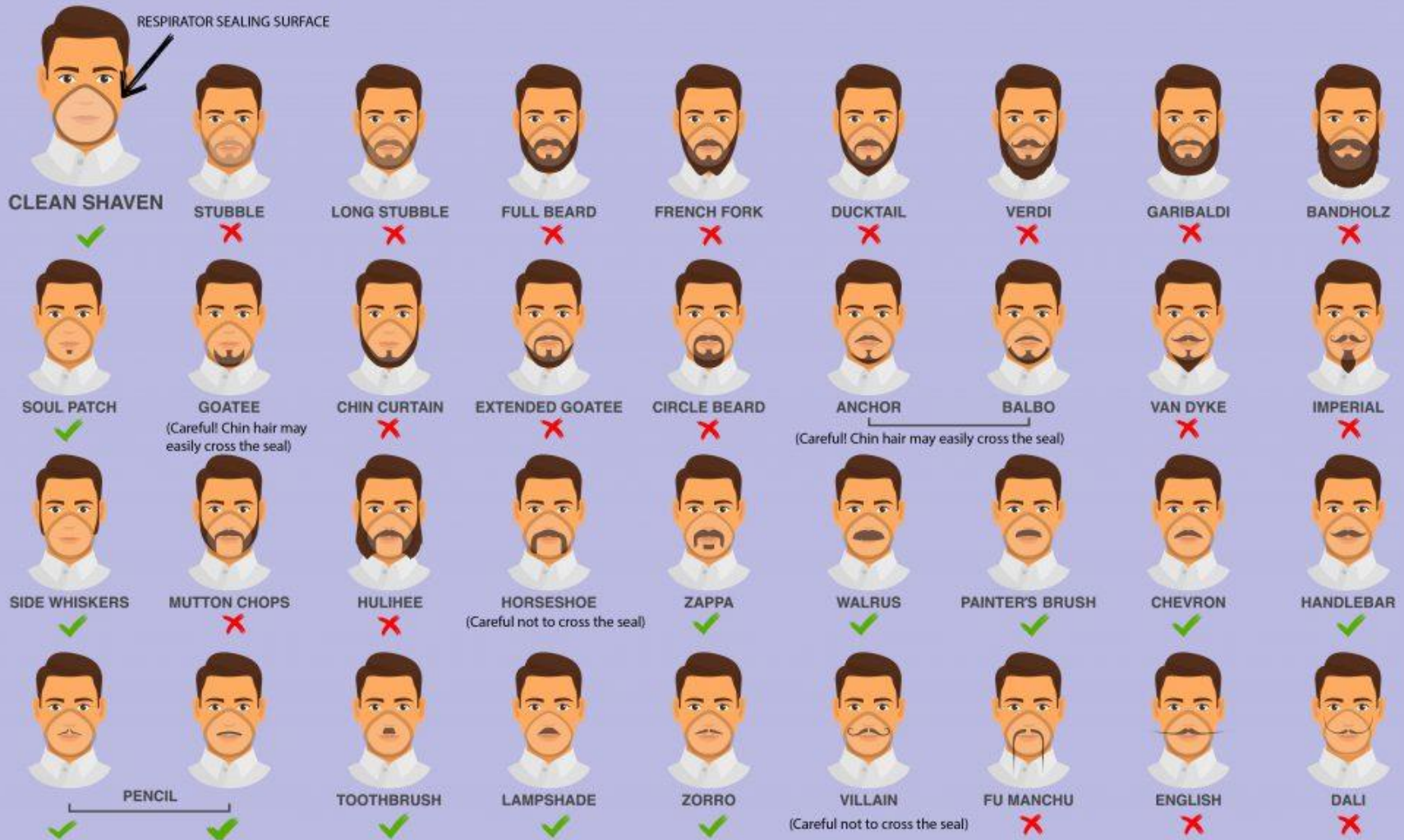
Kansas City VA Medical Center

Date: 4/1/2020
From: Director (DIR)
Subj: Beards are no longer an acceptable reason for fit test failure
To: Kansas City VA Healthcare Providers

1. The President of the United States has declared a national emergency in response to COVID-19 pandemic. The Kansas City VA Hospital is currently operating under emergency conditions and has activated its Incident Command Center. As the Agency Executive for the Kansas City VA Hospital and associated clinics and healthcare services I am requiring all male employees to remain clean shaven, ready and able to wear an N95 mask as required to meet the duties of their job.
2. This approval is effective immediately and will expire on May 31st, 2020.


DAVID ISAACKS, FACHE

Facial Hairstyles and Filtering Facepiece Respirators



*If your respirator has an exhalation valve, some of these styles may interfere with the valve working properly if the facial hair comes in contact with it.
 †This graphic may not include all types of facial hairstyles. For any style, hair should not cross under the respirator sealing surface.

Source: OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard
https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=standards&p_id=12716
 Further Reading: NIOSH Respirator Trusted-Source Webpage
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mppfl/topics/respirators/disp_part/respsource3fttest.html



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health