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 RESPIRATOR SEALING SURFACE **CLEAN SHAVEN** STUBBLE LONG STUBBLE GARIBALDI **FULL BEARD** FRENCH FORK DUCKTAIL VERDI BANDHOLZ SOUL PATCH GOATEE **CHIN CURTAIN EXTENDED GOATEE** CIRCLE BEARD **ANCHOR** VAN DYKE IMPERIAL (Careful! Chin hair may (Careful! Chin hair may easily cross the seal) easily cross the seal) SIDE WHISKERS **MUTTON CHOPS** HULIHEE HORSESHOE ZAPPA WALRUS PAINTER'S BRUSH CHEVRON HANDLEBAR (Careful not to cross the seal) PENCIL **FU MANCHU** TOOTHBRUSH LAMPSHADE ZORRO VILLAIN **ENGLISH** DALI (Careful not to cross the seal) "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. Centers for Disease Control This graphic may not include all types of facial hairstyles. For any style, hair should not cross under the respirator sealing surface. and Prevention National Institute for Occupational Source: OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard shaweb/owardisp.show_document?p_table=standards&p_id=12716 Safety and Health Further Reading: NIOSH Respirator Trusted-Source Webpage https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/respirators/disp_part/respsource3fittest.html