When supplies are scarce for N95 respirators or tier I PPE according to the Classification of North Carolina Issued Personal Protective Equipment, N95 respirators should be kept for those healthcare providers that come in direct contact with known or suspected COVID patients prioritizing for HCP with the highest potential exposures including being present in the room during aerosol generating procedures performed on symptomatic persons.

For those healthcare providers who do not come in direct contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients, KN95s or tier II PPE may be worn. According to the Classification of North Carolina Issued Personal Protective Equipment document, KN95s that are approved for use by the FDA’s Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) Appendix A list are listed as tier II PPE according to the CDC’s [Strategies to Optimize PPE](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html) website. This would include the 3M KN95s received from FEMA. It is recommended that healthcare providers use an additional barrier, such as a face shield, when wearing a KN95 for patient care.