Respirator Use Requirements

Are employees required to use respirators for certain job tasks?
  No
  Yes

Have employees been medically cleared to wear a respirator?
  No
  Yes

Employees must be medically cleared to wear required respirators.

Have employees been trained to wear required respirators?
  No
  Yes

Employees must be trained to wear required respirators.

Have employees been fit tested to wear a respirator?
  No
  Yes

Employees must be fit tested to wear required respirators.

What types of respirators do employees use voluntarily?

Dust mask, N95, or similar

Tight-fitting (e.g. half face/full face)

Even for voluntary use, employees must be medically cleared to wear tight-fitting respirators.

Have employees been medically cleared to wear a tight-fitting respirator?
  No
  Yes

Employees must be medically cleared to wear a tight-fitting respirator.

Have employees been fit tested to wear a tight-fitting respirator?
  No
  Yes

Employees must be fit tested to wear a tight-fitting respirator.

The appropriate steps have been followed for respirator use.

It is strongly recommended that departments consult with EHS to verify whether respirators are required for the hazards present in their work environment and ensure that the most appropriate respirators are selected for the hazards identified.
Employees who are required to use respirators for their normal job duties or those who voluntarily wear tight-fitting respirators (i.e. full or half face respirators) must be medically cleared before the initial use of a respirator.

The employee’s supervisor/supervising department initiates the medical evaluation with Employee Health Services by completing the Online Risk Assessment Tool.

For regional campuses and other situations where necessary, the medical evaluation may be conducted by through a different physician or healthcare provider. Contact EHS if you have questions regarding your location's process.

Employees who are required to use respirators for their normal job duties must take the online respiratory protection training.

This training must be supplemented with any additional job-specific training related to respirator use.

Employees who are required to use respirators for their normal job duties must be fit-tested for tight-fitting respirators and filtering facepiece respirators once training and medical clearance has been completed.

EHS performs fit testing for respirator users. A fit test can be requested through this online scheduling tool. Fit testing can also be requested for voluntary respirator use though it is not required.

The most comprehensive information regarding respirator use can be found within The Ohio State University Respiratory Protection Program.

For questions regarding this program, contact EHS at 614-292-1284 or ehs@osu.edu