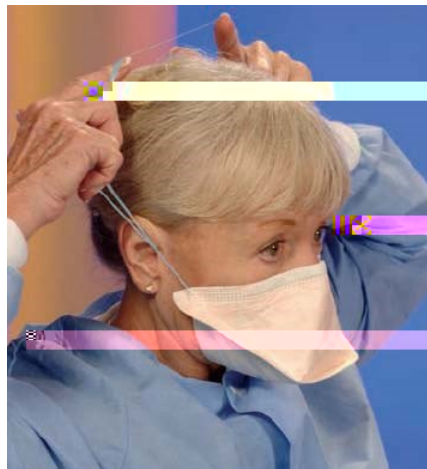


Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
 Information for All Users of N₉₅ and Other Filtering Facepiece Respirators
 Reference: Appendix D to the Respiratory Protection Standard, OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134



Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged, even when exposures are below the exposure limit, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers.

However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker. Sometimes, workers may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by OSHA standards. If your employer provides respirators for your voluntary use, or if you provide your own respirator, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard.

You should do the following:

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirators limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, certifies respirators. A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect against solid particles of fumes or smoke.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

Respiratory Threats in the Healthcare Environment

The risk of infection with tuberculosis and other airborne diseases, such as SARS, smallpox, measles or influenza, is an ongoing threat in the healthcare environment. In addition, there is danger of infection from surgical procedures where these agents may be aerosolized.

Respiratory Protection is Key

Along with proper ventilation, good work practices and administrative controls, respiratory protection is key to the prevention of healthcare-associated transmission of airborne infectious diseases. Any employee who may work with or around patients with suspected tuberculosis or other airborne infectious diseases should be provided with a respirator, including training and fit testing.

NIOSH Approved N95 Respirators

TTUHSC has approved a variety of N95 Particulate Filter Respirators. These respirators are designed to provide an effective facial fit, as required for proper respiratory protection against airborne pathogens. These respirators are NIOSH approved and are available in a variety of sizes. Contact your Safety Services office for fit-testing times/locations.

See HSC OP 75.12, TTUHSC Guidelines for using N-95 Respirators for additional information about N95 Respirators.

- Aerosolizable spore-containing powders such as
/ *Bacillus anthracis*
- /Avian influenza A (strains capable
of causing serious disease in humans)
- Varicella disease (, disseminated
)
- (rubeola)/ Measles virus
- Monkeypox/Monkeypox virus
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome ()
- (variola)/Variola virus
- (TB)/Mycobacterium tuberculosis
- Novel or unknown pathogens
- Any other disease for which public health gm9ei2g)-7 (e)-4o)c9 -1.5 h thc h (m9ei2g)t)Cd(0.1 AssBnn0-11.1 (th)-0ii Td())Tj/TT2