What is a Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)?

The goal of an RPP is to prevent the spread of small aerosol germs or particles that can cause disease. You should develop your RPP to meet the needs in your facility.

Do you need a RPP?

Most places that provide healthcare services are required to have an RPP. If you are not sure if you need an RPP, check out this quick VDH: Do you need an RPP survey.

Get started creating an RPP

1. General overview of an RPP: Watch OSHA Respirators Protection Training Requirements video (7 min)

2. Visit the VDH N95 Respiratory Fit Testing Resources webpage.


4. Use the checklist provided on the next page to get started.

Do you want extra resources before you get started?

- OSHA Respiratory Protection webpage
- CDC/NIOSH Healthcare Respiratory Protection Resources webpage
- AAOHN Free Respiratory Protection Course*
Checklist to Create a Respiratory Protection Program

**Start your Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)**

1. **Confirm the facility needs to have an RPP:** [VDH: Do you need an RPP survey](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/).

2. **Pick an RPP administrator,** who will create and help run the program.

3. **Provide training for the RPP Administrator including:**
   a. [VDH Presentation: N95 Fit Test Procedures](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/).
   b. [OSHA Video: The Difference Between Respirators and Surgical Masks](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/), (5 min).
   c. [OSHA Video: Respirator Types NIOSH approved N95 masks](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/), (16 min) and [NIOSH list](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/).
   d. [CDC Reference: Hospital Respiratory Protection Program Toolkit](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/).
   e. [VDH Respiratory Protection Program Knowledge Assessment Test](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/).

4. **Create an RPP Plan for your facility**
   - You can use the [VDH RPP template](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/). Your Plan must include all 11 required sections.

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**Get ready for your first fit testing event**

1. **Plan who will do fit testing at your facility** (your trained staff or an outside company)
   a. **Prep your staff to perform the fit testing**
      - [OSHA Video: Respiratory Protection for Healthcare Workers](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/), (33 min).
      - [VDH Documents: Example step by step testing procedures](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/).
      - [VDH Document: Respirator Fit Test Record Form](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/).
      - [How to do fit testing: 3M Fit Test Kit Training Video](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/), (7 min).
   
   **OR**
   b. **Pick a private company to perform fit testing services**
      - [VDH Document: Private companies that provide N95 fit test training](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/).

2. **Medical Evaluation:** Pick a licensed health care professional and provide training:
   a. [OSHA Video: Medical Evaluations for Workers Who Use Respirators](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/), (9 min).
   b. [OSHA Medical Questionnaire](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/), or facility-created form with required information.
   c. [Medical Recommendation for Respirator Use Form](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/).

   The medical evaluation must be completed before fit testing starts.

   d. [Plan](www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/) for when Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPRs) may be needed.

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*Disclaimer: The vendors and companies linked as resources are not an exhaustive list. This information is meant to be a resource. The Virginia Department of Health assumes no responsibility or liability for the information made available by the vendors or companies referenced on support resources.*