Respiratory Protection Programs (RPP) are required in most settings where healthcare is provided. The following guide outlines resources that may be helpful to developing and implementing a RPP. Visit the VDH N95 Respiratory Fit Testing Train-The-Trainer Resources And Information web page for more information.

- Get started with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Respirators Protection Training Requirements video for a brief introduction and overview on RPP.

VDH-led TRAIN Sessions for Respiratory Fit Testing Train-the-Trainer: 2022 dates and locations are NOW AVAILABLE!

Develop and Implement a Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)

The Virginia Department of Health developed a Respiratory Protection Program Template document. Use this resource in conjunction with the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134) to guide your planning, develop your RPP and provide a foundation for implementing a successful RPP.

The RPP Template contains eleven sections of information and guidance for fulfilling each of these sections. In summary:

- Evaluate workplace respiratory hazards
- Designate an RPP administrator
- Administrator develops the facility RPP
- Administrator implements the RPP (conduct fit testing, provide workplace training, and evaluate RPP)
Components of a Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)

1. Purpose

2. Scope & Application

3. Policies & Responsibilities
   - Identify and evaluate workplace respiratory hazards caused by breathing contaminated air
   - Designate a program administrator, qualified by appropriate training or experience, to administer the RPP. Appropriate training can be acquired by reviewing the following presentations that provide an overview of RPP planning, fit-testing, and annual training requirements:
     - N95 Respiratory Protection Train-the-Trainer Training
     - N95 Fit Test Procedures
     - OSHA Respiratory Protection Training Test your Knowledge

4. Respirator Selection Procedures
   - OSHA Video: The Difference Between Respirators and Surgical Masks
   - OSHA Video: Respirator Types
   - NIOSH approved N95 masks

5. Voluntary Respirator Use

6. Medical Evaluation:
   - A medical evaluation must be completed prior to fit testing and before wearing a respirator.
     - Must use OSHA Medical Questionnaire or medical examination that obtains the same information
     - A qualified healthcare professional reviews the medical evaluation and completes a Medical Recommendation for Respirator Use for each employee

7. Fit Testing
   - VDH Document: Respiratory Protection Training - Respirator Fit Testing
   - VDH Document: Private companies that provide N95 fit test training*
   - Respirator Fit Test Record
   - Example 3M Fit Test Kit* and associated 3M Fit Test Kit Training Video*

8. Respirator Users and General Use Procedures

9. Employee Training
   - OSHA Video: Respiratory Protection for Healthcare Workers Training Video
   - Narrated Presentation: Annual Respiratory Protection Program Training

10. Program Evaluation
    - Procedures for regularly evaluating the effectiveness of the RPP

11. Documentation and Recordkeeping

*Disclaimer: The vendors and companies linked in this document are not an exhaustive list. This information is meant to be a resource guide. The Virginia Department of Health assumes no responsibility or liability for the information made available by the vendors or companies listed in this document.