

Resource Guide for Developing a Respiratory Program

DID
YOU
KNOW?

Respiratory Protection Standard ([1910.134](#)) is among OSHA's top 5 most cited standards!

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.

👉 Review the full [OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard \(29 CFR 1910.134\)](#) and [Mini Respiratory Protection Standard \(29 CFR 1910.504\)](#).

[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
 - National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH): [Healthcare Respiratory Protection Resources - Hazard Evaluation and Respirator Selection](#)
- 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.