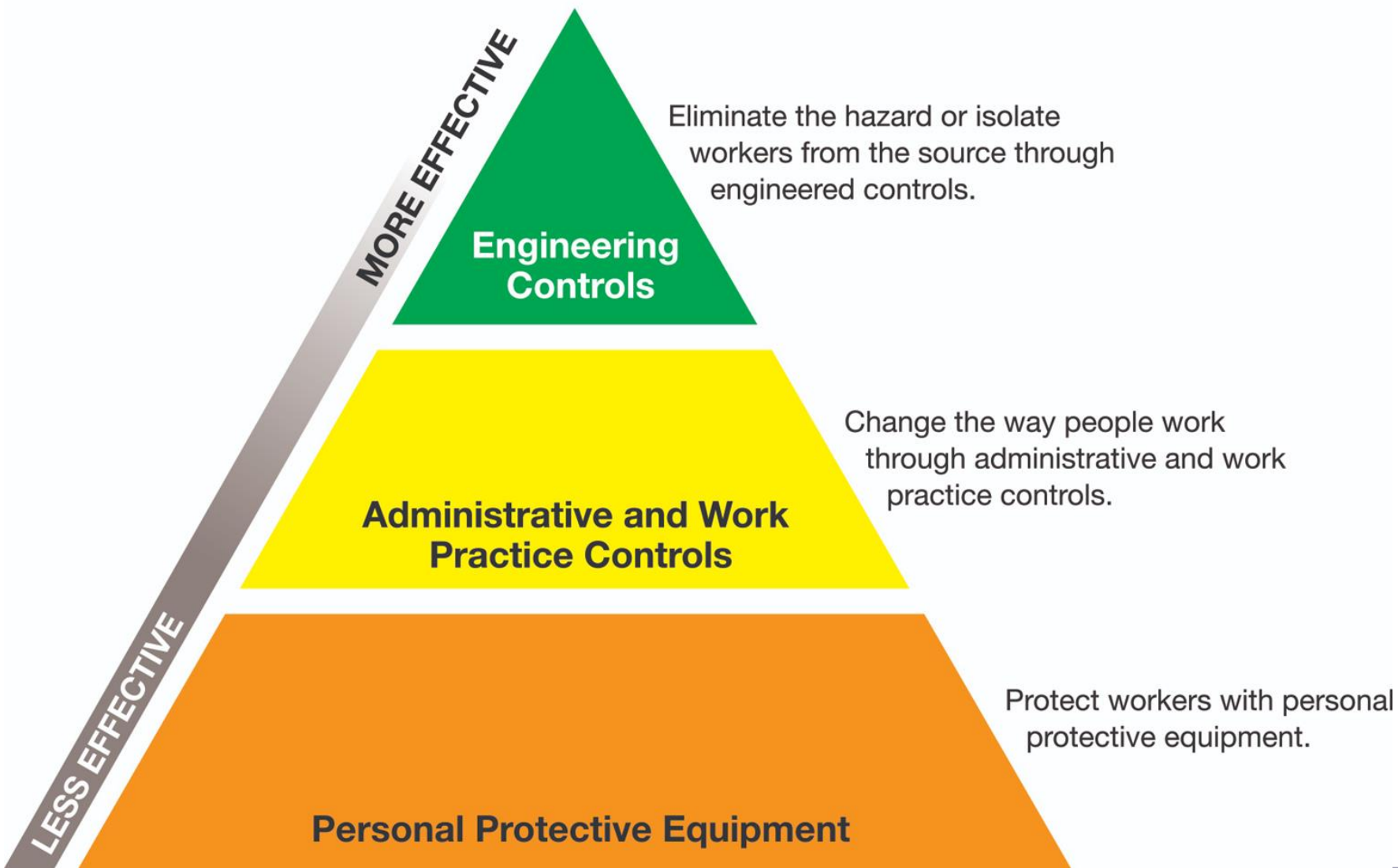


# Respiratory Protection Program and General Personal Protective Equipment Overview



VDH Occupational Health & Safety Team  
Emergency Preparedness Summit  
September 28, 2022

# OSHA's Three Lines of Defense



# Engineering Controls

- Engineering controls are strategies designed to protect workers from hazardous conditions by removing the hazard or creating a barrier between the employee and the hazard
- Examples of engineering controls include: properly labeled sharps containers, red biohazard bags, eye washing stations, safety needles, needleless systems, and handwashing stations
- The National Institute for Occupational and Safety and Health (NIOSH) provides resources on several topics on safety controls for the workplace

# Administrative Controls (Workplace Practices)

- Work safety practices are actions taken by employees that will reduce the likelihood of exposure by performing a mandatory safety task or by doing work activities in a specific manner
- Examples include:
  - handwashing, vaccinations,
  - disposing of medical waste and/or sharps appropriately
  - observing established disinfection and hygiene practices
  - adhering to the use of standard precautions

# Personal Protective Equipment

## OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910 Subpart I

- 1910.132 General requirements
- 1910.133 Eye and face protection
- 1910.134 Respiratory protection
- 1910.135 Head protection
- 1910.136 Foot protection
- 1910.137 Electrical protective devices
- 1910.138 Hand Protection

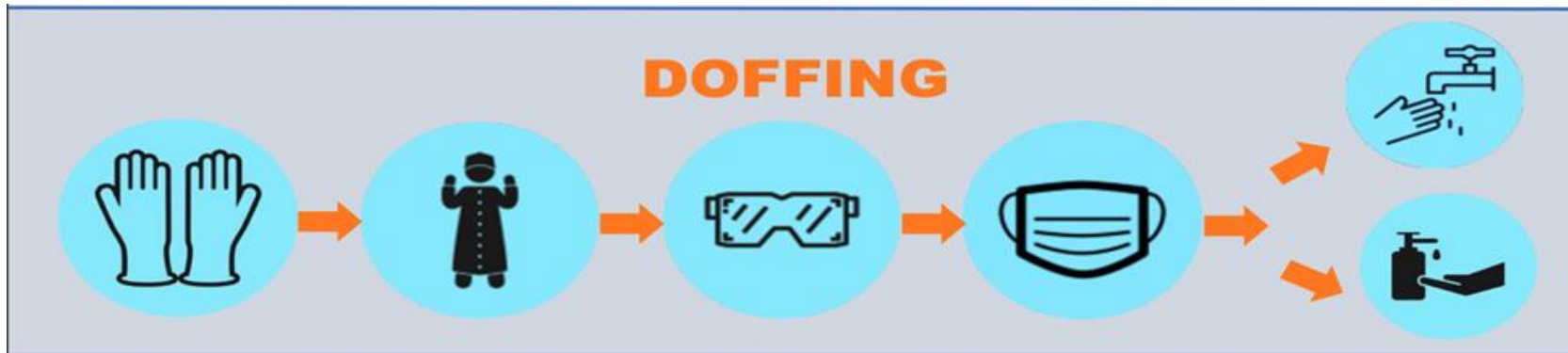
# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- PPE is specialized clothing or equipment worn by employees for protection against workplace hazards
- PPE should be put on (donning) and removed (doffing) according to established procedures and disposed of in designated containers.
- After doffing PPE immediately perform hand hygiene
- Discard PPE carefully and appropriately

# Types of PPE in Healthcare

- Gloves - protect hands and acts as a barrier between organisms and hands
- Gowns & aprons - protect skin and clothing
- Face masks - protect mucous membranes of mouth & nose
- Goggles - protect eyes
- Face Shields - protect the mucous membrane of mouth, nose and eyes
- Respirators - prevents inhalation of infectious material

# Donning and Doffing PPE





# Respiratory Protection

## OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910 Subpart I

- 1910.132 General requirements.
- 1910.133 Eye and face protection.
- **1910.134 Respiratory protection.**
- 1910.135 Head protection.
- 1910.136 Foot protection.
- 1910.137 Electrical protective devices.
- 1910.138 Hand Protection.

# Healthcare Workers Risk of Exposure

- For healthcare workers the most common modes of transmission for airborne pathogens are respiratory droplets from a person coughing, sneezing, talking, or otherwise expelling droplets
- OSHA/VOSH requires a Respiratory Protection Program must be in place when employees are required to wear respirators as protection against airborne pathogens
- VDH's Respiratory Protection Plan is being updated, new medical evaluation procedures (Questionnaire), respirator specification, coordinated tracking of fit testing and respirator clearances

# Airborne Pathogens

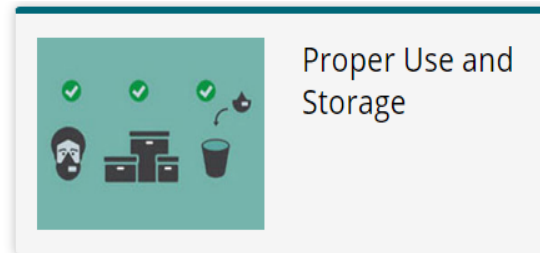
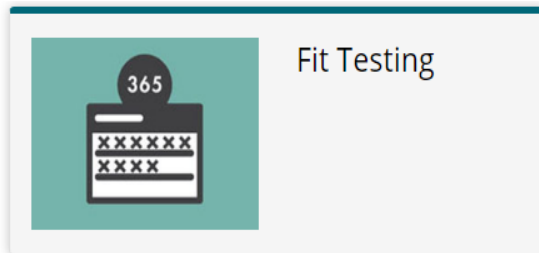
- INFLUENZA (INCLUDING SWINE FLU & AVIAN FLU)
- COMMUNITY ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA
- COMMON VIRAL UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION
- RHINOVIRUS
- MEASLES
- MENINGITIS
- TUBERCULOSIS
- INHALATIONAL ANTHRAX
- COVID-19
- MONKEYPOX

# Respiratory Protection Program Elements



- Implement a written respiratory protection program
- Designate a program administrator qualified by appropriate training or experience to administer the respiratory protection program
- Evaluate all respiratory hazards in the workplace
- Select and provide appropriate respirators based on these respiratory hazards

# Respiratory Protection Program Elements



- Workers must have a medical evaluation and be cleared to wear a respirator (OSHA Questionnaire)
- Fit Testing is required before the initial use of a respirator in the workplace; whenever a different respirator (make, model or size) is used; at least annual; & whenever the worker, RPP Administrator, or PLHCP observes changes
- Procedures must identify proper use, care & storage of the respirators

# Respiratory Protection Program Elements



- Workers must be trained prior to requiring them to use respirators in the workplace
- Retraining must occur annually, and when changes in the workplace or type of respirator render previous training obsolete
- The Program must be evaluated for effectiveness at least annually and make appropriate changes when issues are identified
- The written program, medical evaluations, and fit test records must be retained



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# QUESTIONS?



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