Airborne contaminants in the workplace can pose a respiratory hazard. Respiratory protection is important but should be considered the last line of defense when it comes to reducing exposure to a hazard. (Please see the Methods for Controlling Hazards Fact Sheet.)

What is a respirator?
It is personal protective equipment that is worn over the mouth and nose or the entire face to protect you from breathing in dangerous substances.

How does a respirator work?
Respirators work by either filtering particles from the air, chemically cleaning (purifying) the air, or supplying clean air from an outside source.

What steps do I need to take?

**Assessment**
- EHRS should be contacted to assess the area to determine if respiratory protection is needed, and if so which type.

**Medical Surveillance**
- Give the completed Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire to a physician or other licensed health care professional to determine your ability to wear a respirator while performing work tasks.
  - Employees can give the completed form to Employee Health Services.
  - Students can either give the completed form to a Student Health Services’ Physician or Family Medical Physician.
- You and the physician or other licensed health care professional must complete the Respiratory Medical Clearance Form.

**Fit-Testing**
- Make an appointment with EHRS to be fit-tested, and bring the completed Respiratory Medical Clearance Form to the session.

Quick Take
- Individuals must be medically cleared prior to getting fitted for a respirator.
- Contact EHRS at 215-707-2520 to get fitted for a respirator.
- See our Respiratory Protection Program for more information.

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