

Respiratory Protection Program

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](#).)



OSHA.gov

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.

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.**