

Pandemic Influenza: Novel Virus/Planned Approach “The Ins and Outs of a Respiratory Protection Program”

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Four Steps to a Respiratory Protection Program

1. Maintain a written program
2. Medically evaluate each employee
3. Train and fit test employees to comply with federal requirements
4. Provide respiratory protection equipment for employees, including N95 respirators



code of federal regulations
29
Occupational Safety and Health

10 program components - OSHA's Respiratory Protection standard (29 CFR 1910.134)

1. Maintain a **written respiratory protection program (RPP)** with worksite specific procedures for fit testing and training.
 2. **Medically evaluate** each employee before that employee is fit tested.
- Include the following specific elements **as part of training/fit testing**:
3. Provide instruction on the respiratory hazards to which the workers are potentially exposed.
 4. Provide instruction on the uses and limitations of all respirators worn in the work area.
 5. Instruct and demonstrate to employees how to properly don and adjust any respirators worn according to the manufacturers' instructions.
 6. Allow the employees an opportunity to practice these procedures.
 7. Provide user seal check instructions.
 8. Instruct the employees in the procedures for the maintenance and storage of the respirators being used.
 9. Fit test each employee to be assigned a respirator.
 10. Document the successful completion of training and fit testing for all employees wearing respirators.

1. Maintain a written program



<http://www.cahf.org/public/dpp/planning.php>



The screenshot shows a webpage titled 'CAHF Regulation' with a sub-header 'Disaster Planning for LRC, Health, Resources and Possible Practices'. It contains a list of bullet points under various categories like 'Disaster Planning for your Facility or "At Home"', 'The worker role', and 'Education Planning, including MDDP Practices'. A red arrow points from the URL below to the 'Education Planning' section.

The image shows the cover and first page of a 'Model Respiratory Protection Program' document. The cover features the CAHF logo and the title 'Model Respiratory Protection Program' with a date of 'JUNE 2008'. The first page contains the following text:

Model Respiratory Protection Program
Facility Name: _____

Policy
 It is the policy of this company to provide its employees with a safe and healthful work environment. The purpose of this program is to reduce employee exposure to infectious agents in the workplace through the proper use of respirators during an influenza pandemic or other infectious respiratory disease emergency. Respiratory protection is provided at no cost to the employees.
 This policy includes the implementation of this respiratory protection program as a means of providing the highest levels of protection to employees during an influenza pandemic, as defined by OSHA.^[1] Specific details of this guidance appear in the Appendix.

Program Administration
 The following individual has ultimate total and complete responsibility for the administration of the respiratory protection program:
Name: _____
Title: _____
Telephone: _____

This individual has the authority to act on any and all matters relating to the operation and administration of the respiratory protection program. All employees, operating departments, and service departments will cooperate to the fullest extent. This person is referred to as the Respiratory Protection Program Administrator. This person will also be responsible for monitoring the ongoing and changing needs for respiratory protection.

[1] Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Guidance for Healthcare Workers and Healthcare Employers; OSHA 3329-05, 2007.

Implementing the RPP

- Formally adopt, as policy, the MRPP
- Designate a program administrator
 - The program administrator can serve as the administrator for multiple facilities
- Maintain records of screening and training of staff
- Establish a medical clearance process
- Screen and train staff in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - This screening and training (which includes fit testing of respirators) must occur *after* a person is hired

2. Medically evaluate employees

Options:

- Your current occupational health provider
- “Physician or other licensed healthcare professional”
- On-line services, such as 3M’s www.respexam.com

3M United States

3M Worldwide | United States | Safety, Security & Protection Services | eTools

Welcome to 3M™ Health & Safety Services eTools
Respirator Medical Evaluations (On-Line and Mail-In formats)

Home Overview FAQ Learn More Credentials Sign-up Here Contact Us

Customer Administration

Employees: start your respirator medical questionnaire or respiratory protection e-training in English.

Español: comenzar el cuestionario médico para uso del respirador en Español.

View Demo

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Asthma Follow-up Questions

Which of the following best describes how often you have asthma attacks (episodes of wheezing or coughing with shortness of breath)?

Daily
 1-2 times a week
 1-2 times a month
 Less than one time a month

How does this job affect your asthma?

My asthma is worse at work.
 My asthma is the same or better at work.
 I don't know, I have not done this work before.

Do you wish to provide any additional information to the medical doctor who will review this questionnaire?

Yes No

Congratulations!

You have been medically cleared to wear a respirator under the use conditions specified at the beginning of the survey.

Your supervisor will notify you of any additional steps to be taken before you may begin wearing a respirator.

Your employer will receive a letter stating you have been medically cleared. A copy of that letter will be printed from the screen now or you may choose to have it sent to you at the mailing address you gave at the start of the questionnaire.

Thank you for your participation!

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Your responses will be reviewed by an occupational medicine physician.

A letter will be mailed within 2 business days to your home address notifying you if you have been medically cleared to wear a respirator or if additional information is required.

Please contact your supervisor if you have any questions or if you do not have access to your questionnaire or know how to access it.

3M Individual Health Records
 Health & Safety Services 111470

This application is subject to the 3M Standard 0000-1100 to ensure that you are medically certified to wear a respirator in each of your jobs. Based on the responses you have provided, the following describes the respiratory use conditions and the physician's evaluation of your ability to wear the respirator.

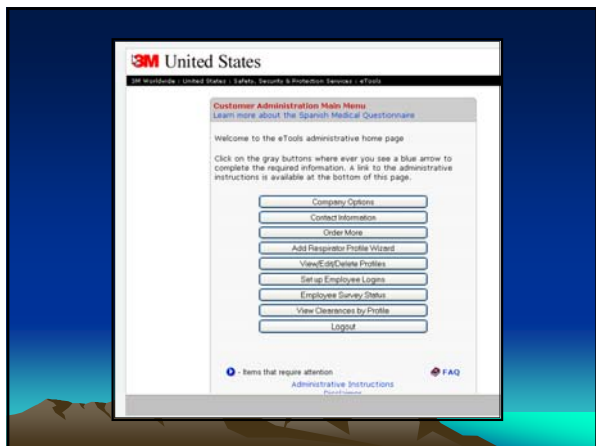
MEDICAL CLEARANCE FOR RESPIRATOR USE

Employee Name: Smith, Joe Date Tested: 10/25/2008 11:29:12 AM
 Employee ID: 1145

Respirator Use Conditions

Respirator Profile	Clear Room	Temp < 102 F	No
Respirator Type	100% Air	Temp < 113 F	Yes
Work Effort	Light	Heart Rate	No
Extent of Use	Daily, but less than 2 hours per day	Confined Space	No
Organic Solvents	No	Normal Conditions	No
Protective Gear	Suits	Hypertonic	No
Toxic Substances	Hydrocarbons, Gases - Fly ash - Particulates - Fibers	High Altitude	No
Work Description	Performing tasks assigned		

RESPIRATOR EVALUATION
 No restrictions on respirator use in the use conditions listed above.
 Review Status: Post Clearance Policy



3. Train...

TRAINING: Uses and Limitations of Respirators

- All respirators have use limitations. There is not one all-purpose respirator.
- Your company selected the environment on which your respirators designed for hazardous materials, clear purposes.
- Respirators are to be worn during an influenza disease emergency; your s these conditions exist.
- Respirators are to be worn Respiratory Protection Program additional administrative disease.
- If you have facial hair, do
- If the respirator malfunction contaminated area (that is, Malfunctioning includes a becoming clogged.
- If you are feeling light-head breathing

TRAINING: Instruct and demonstrate to employees how to properly don and adjust any respirators worn according to the manufacturers' instructions.

Demonstrate how to properly don and adjust respirators:

- Top strap across the crown of your head.
- Bottom strap across the neck, underneath hair.
- Fit the metal nose clip using both index fingers, *not* the index finger and thumb.

Remove the respirator by removing the bottom strap, then the top strap.



Persons who wear surgical masks or respirators should be advised that surgical mask or respirator use should not take the place of preventive interventions, such as respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene.

To offer protection, surgical masks and respirators must be worn correctly and consistently throughout the time they are used.

Wearing a surgical mask or respirator incorrectly, or removing or disposing of it improperly, could allow contamination of the hands or mucous membranes of the wearer or others, possibly resulting in disease transmission.

Proper surgical mask or respirator use and

...And fit test

4. Provide PPE

N95 Respirators



PAPRs:
Powered Air-
Purifying
Respirators



Can it be that easy?
Lessons learn from CAHF's
Respiratory Protection
Initiative...

The RPI

- 14 sites (1 of which dropped due to staff turnover)
- Throughout California, 64 – 200 beds (mean = 139)
- Ownership: non-profit, for-profit corporate, and for-profit individual
- Assessment data collected 5 – 6 months after train-the-trainer (Mar – Apr 2009), just before H1N1

Results

- Medical clearance of 1027 staff at 14 sites, representing 59% of all staff
- Training and fit testing of 296 staff, 22% of all staff
- Train-the-trainer model; at least two trainers at each site
- PPE for each facility for all staff x 1 month
- 50% of sites had pre-existing occ health contracts; 0% used these for RPI

Medical Clearance

- Screened out by RespExam.com: 2.4%
- High levels of satisfaction
- Some issues with:
 - Spanish pages
 - Employee literacy

% of staff at each pilot site
75
80
100
50
100
25
40
25
0
50
72
85
60

Training and Fit Testing

- Most facilities missed target
- Train-the-trainer unsuccessful
 - Preference for outside trainers
 - Retention rate among trainers
 - 'Not part of my job'
- High levels of satisfaction with training materials, but materials not widely used

% of staff at each pilot site
40
0
0
50
90
0
0
0
0
0
50
58
0

Overall Findings

- Training/fit testing not part of the routine occ health or employee training
 - Low priority
 - No immediate need or urgency
 - Departure from business as usual, for both trainers and staff
 - Most facilities missed their target
- Online medical clearance worked well
- Adopting a pre-packaged model policy went smoothly
- Storage capacity for stockpiled PPE a real problem for more than half of sites

Questions?

Thank you!

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