

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

Michael Ciraolo, RN, MS, MA

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## 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](http://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

© 3M 1995-2009 Legal Information Privacy Policy 3P-ITL202124-72

---

---

---

---

---

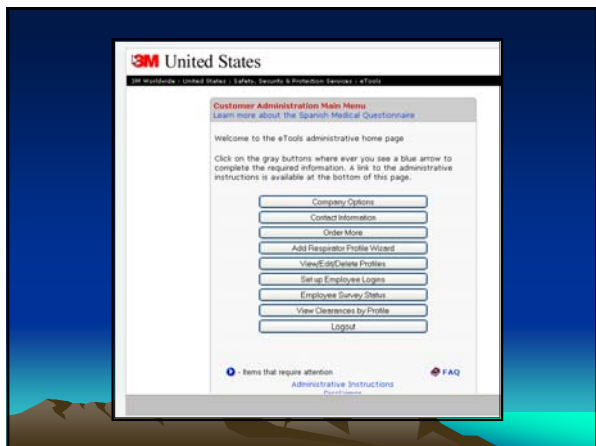
---

---

---








---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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 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!

*Contact:*  
Mike Ciraolo, RN MS  
[mciraolo@queenstongroup.com](mailto:mciraolo@queenstongroup.com)  
510-528-9495

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---