



Informed Consent for Respirator Use

Your research or project requires that you are able to use a respirator. If you are an undergraduate student, you must be evaluated by a physician or other licensed healthcare professional to get approval for the use of a respirator, or you may read and complete this informed consent acknowledging by signature that you do not have any medical conditions that would preclude your use of respiratory protection.

Your principal investigator, teaching assistant, or supervisor is also responsible for providing you with information about:

- The specific chemicals, microorganisms, or particulates that you may be potentially exposed to; how to protect yourself from these substances; what to do if you think you are exposed or develop symptoms;
- Personal protective equipment – clothing, gloves and eye-wear selection;

EHS will provide you with information about:

- Respirator selection and fit-testing requirements;
- Medical limitations of tight-fitting respirator use (a person with asthma or a heart condition is strongly advised to consult a doctor before respirator fit testing);

By signing this form, you indicate that you participated in the classroom or on-line respirator training, understand the nature of potential health hazards associated with the research or project that you are participating in, understand the medical limitations of respirator use, had the opportunity to ask questions, and received adequate answers to your inquiries.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

(please print)

Date: _____

Please check one:

- I am not aware of any medical limitations that will prevent me from wearing a tight fitting respirator. I can proceed to the fit-test.
- I would like to take the time and talk to a doctor about my ability to wear a tight fitting respirator. When you see your doctor, please have him or her provide a written note indicating you have been medically cleared to use a respirator.

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Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged, even when concentrations are below the exposure limit to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker. Sometimes, workers may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by OSHA standards. You need to take certain precautions to be sure that your respirator itself does not present a hazard during use.

You should do the following:

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirators limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, certifies respirators. A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. It will tell you what the respirator is designed for and how much it will protect you.
3. Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.