N95 Respirators: Use and Fit Testing

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
Outline

• N95 Respirators- Use and Limitations
• OSHA’s Respirator Standard
• Qualitative Fit Testing
• Donning/Doffing
N95 Respirators

- Air purifying
- Tight fitting
- N: not resistant to oil
- 95: 95% effective at reducing exposure to 0.3 micron particles

Can be used to protect workers from airborne infectious agents
N95s are:

Air Purifying vs. Atmosphere Supplying
N95s are:

Tight Fitting vs. Loose Fitting
N95s purify the air with:

- filters

vs.

- cartridges

N95: **not** resistant to oil and 95% effective at reducing exposure to 0.3 micron particles

CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents)
Multiple Configurations and Manufacturers
Surgical masks are not respirators appropriate for cough etiquette & protection from droplets (not aerosols)
N95 respirators provide inhalation protection from infectious airborne agents (aerosols)
Permissible Practice

When effective engineering controls are not feasible, or while they are being instituted, appropriate respirators shall be used pursuant to this section......
Written Respirator Program
Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this respirator program is to ensure that all employees are protected from person-to-person transmission of airborne (inhalational) infectious agents.
Your Department:

- Who is your Program Administrator?
  - Eric Germain, Dir Env. Health & Safety

- What tasks may expose staff to infectious airborne agents?

- Who in your department may be required to wear an N95 Respirator?
Selection

Which Respirators have been selected:

N95s or KN95
Your Department:

• Which N95 respirators will you select?
  Availability
  Expiration Dates
  Portability
  Latex free
  Nose Clips
  Experience with successful fit
Medical Evaluations
(before respirator use or fit testing)

- Employees complete a mandatory medical evaluation questionnaire (Appendix C)
- The questionnaire is reviewed by a PLHCP to determine the employee’s ability to wear the N95 respirator
- The PLHCP completes a clearance review form and sends a copy to the employer and employee
Fit Testing (annual) and Use

- Qualitative Fit Test

Features which compromise fit

- Facial hair that interferes w/ seal
- Improper donning
- Humidity, Sweat
- Work Practices
- Facial disfigurement
- Eye glasses
- Excessive weight gain or loss
- Failure to complete a fit check
Your Department:

• Who will do the fit testing?
  – Outside vendor
  – In-House
Care of N95

- Must be replaced if wet or damaged
- Replace if contaminated
- Do not write on mask
STORAGE

• Store in a manner that protects against damage and contamination
Program Evaluation and Record Keeping

- Medical evaluations
- Fit testing
- Written respirator program
Don/Doff Respirator

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oU4stQgCtV8
Please Complete the Following Quiz

• N95 QUIZ

• If you have additional questions, please contact Eric Germain
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