

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION TRAINING



Beth Israel Lahey Health

Important contact information to remember

- To reach [DEPT RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION]:
 - ##### (pager)
 - ##### (telephone)
 - xxx (email)

- To reach [INFECTION CONTROL]:
 - ##### (pager)
 - ##### (telephone)

Introduction

- The healthcare industry encounters airborne and potentially airborne infectious diseases (tuberculosis, measles, flu) and other respiratory hazards
- N95 or greater protection are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for healthcare workers requiring protection from various airborne hazards and for particular infectious diseases
- A Respiratory Protection Program is required for the protection of BILH employees who may encounter these airborne respiratory hazards among others

OSHA 1910.134 – Respiratory Protection Standard

- OSHA requires the creation and management of a Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)
- The RPP is managed by [DEPT RESPONSIBLE FOR RESP PROTECTION] with support from [INSERT ADDITIONAL DEPTS]
- Major Components of the RPP include:
 - Medical Evaluation
 - Initial and Annual Training
 - Applicability of respirator use and limitations
 - Respirator and filter selection
 - Fit testing
 - User-seal checks
 - Cleaning, storage, and disposal

Medical Evaluation required upon hire & if health status changes

- Upon hire, required employees will be screened to determine physical and mental capability of wearing a respirator
- **[RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT]** completes, approves, and maintains records of medical evaluations
- At any point, if the health status of a healthcare worker changes, a medical evaluation should be resubmitted to **[RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT]**

Examples include:

- New onset of pulmonary diseases, including asthma or injuries
- New onset of cardiovascular or heart problems
- Development of claustrophobia
- Musculoskeletal injuries (for Powered Air Purifying Respirator wearers)

Fit testing is required initially and at least annually

- All healthcare workers receive an initial fit test prior to first use of the respirator and at least annually thereafter (*unless waived by OSHA due to critical supply shortages*)
 - Testing may be coordinated through [RESPONSIBLE DEPT], through contractors or via fit test coordinators trained within your home department
- Fit testing determines the respirator appropriately fits the user and ensures a good seal to the wearers face
 - You may be fitted for multiple respirators and will require training and fit testing on each model
- New fit test is required for
 - Any healthcare worker that gains or loses more than 10% of their original body weight
 - Alteration of facial structure (dental or facial surgery, scarring)
 - Switching to new make/model of respirator

When do healthcare personnel need the protection of a respirator?

- When entering a room of a patient on airborne precautions
- During aerosol-generating procedures
- When working with potentially airborne infectious specimens within a laboratory setting
- When instructed by institution for particular situations with respiratory hazards

Example respirators types to protect the healthcare workers

- Disposable Respirators

- N95: filter greater than 95% of particles 0.3 μm (micrometers) and larger
 - 3M 1860/1860S
 - List respirators at your facility

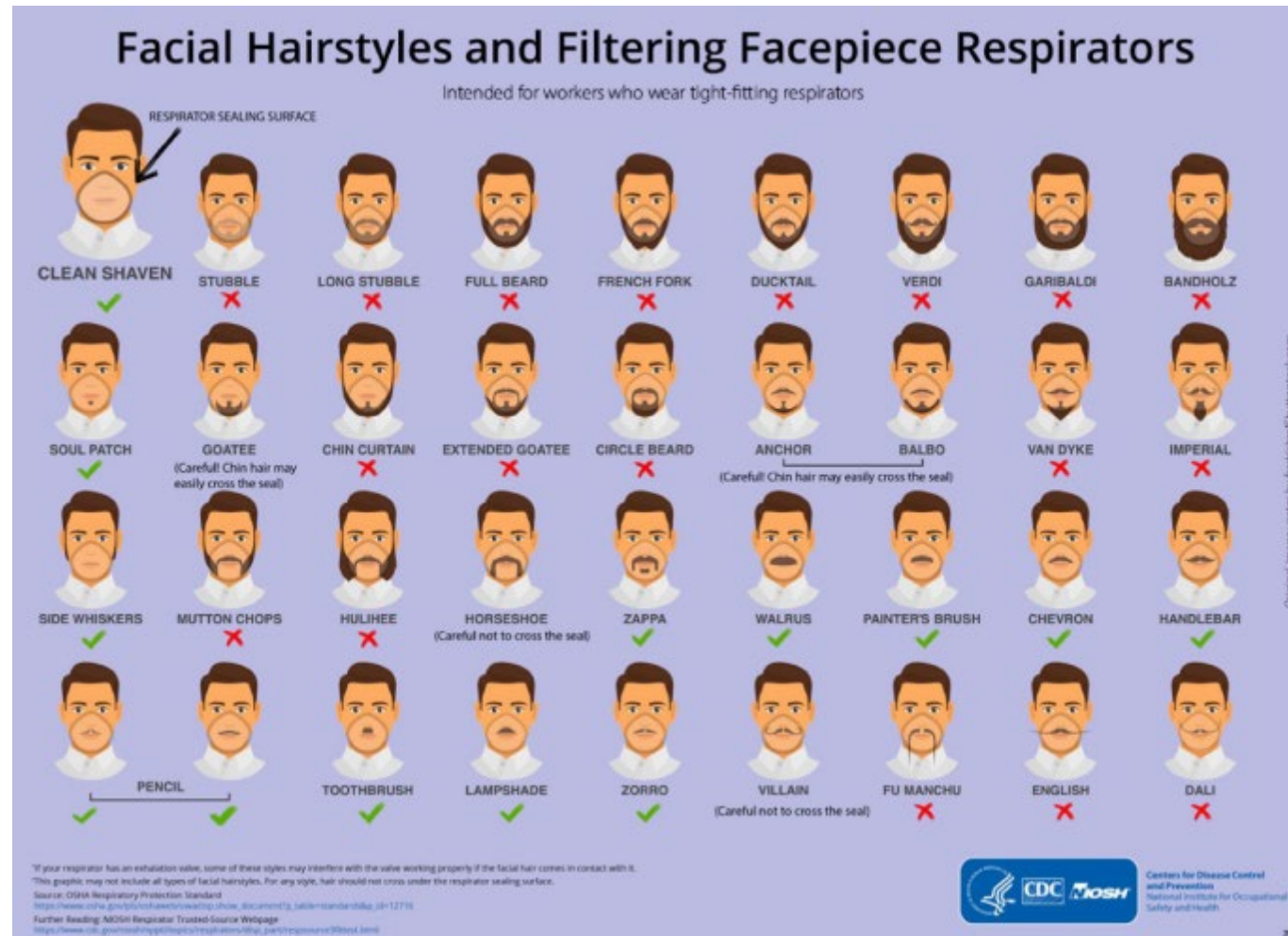
- Reusable Respirators

- N95: envo[®] mask
- P100/ HEPA filter: greater than 99.97% of particles 0.3 μm (micrometers) and larger
 - List brands of PAPR at your facility
 - 3M Half-face Elastomeric Respirator
 - MSA 290 Advantage Half-face Elastomeric Respirator

Respirator Use and Limitations

- Respirators **cannot** be worn with facial hair or anything that prevents a tight face to respirator seal
 - If facial hair is present or user is unable to maintain a tight seal, a powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) will be required
- Inspect the respirator prior to use for integrity
 - No tears or gross contamination
 - Ensure straps and nosepiece intact
 - No soiling or excessive moisture
- Complete user seal checks every time you don respirator prior to entering contaminated area
- Respirators used for protection against infectious agents will NOT provide protection for gasses or chemicals. Ensure >19.5% oxygen concentration
- If breathing becomes difficult or respirator becomes contaminated, leave the space immediately and safely doff the respirator

Facial hair impacts fit and performance of respirator



<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/FacialHairWmask11282017-508.pdf>

Respirator Cleaning, Storage, and Disposal

- If your respirator becomes grossly contaminated and unable to be cleaned, damaged/wet, or if breathing becomes noticeably more difficult for the user, it must be replaced immediately
- Disposable respirators shall be discarded in the trash after each use
 - **During a pandemic surge, the hospital Incident Command may instruct for extended use, re-use, and/ or disinfection of disposable respiratory protection**
- Re-usable respirators shall be cleaned/disinfected and disposed of in accordance to **[RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT]** procedures
 - Respiratory protection should be stored in a clean bag/box/container when not in use
 - For specifics on timing, please refer to the [BILH Respirator Service Life by Respirator Type](#)

Additional important information

- Do not use self-purchased respiratory protection
 - BILH will provide and must approve all PPE
 - Many counterfeit or inadequate items exist in the marketplace
 - Improper respirator use poses unnecessary risk to patients and staff
- Do not use a respirator unless you are medically evaluated, fit tested and trained on the model
- Vendors are not permitted to use BILH respiratory protection and need to refer to their company procedures
- If you are not able to perform a successful user seal check, you are not to enter the patient care area

Questions or concerns?

Please contact the **[RESPONSIBLE DEPT]** at
(pager)
(telephone)
xxx (email)

For more information, you can visit the BILH portal.

Complete additional trainings for the specific respirators on which you were fit tested

[INSERT LINKS TO SPECIFIC MODULES HERE]