



RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 19, 2022

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I. SCOPE

According to the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) regulations and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Policy, all LAUSD personnel who are required to use respiratory protection equipment, including filtering facepiece respirators (N95), shall be included in the LAUSD **Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)**.

The primary objective of the RPP is to provide guidelines and procedures on the use of respirators for tasks where elimination/substitution, engineering or administrative controls are clearly impractical and in case of emergencies.

The RPP applies to District employees who are required to use respirators at LAUSD.

This RPP does not apply to Contractors, as they are responsible for providing their own Respiratory Protection Program and protective equipment for their employees.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Program Administrator (PA): Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS)

- Has the authority and responsibility to implement, review, update and maintain the RPP annually and as needed in accordance with Cal/OSHA regulations
- Manages medical screening services and maintains medical records for staff participating in the RPP
- Approves respirators for use
- Schedules and provides respiratory protection training and fit testing

B. Site Administrator

- Ensures records of respirator protection training and fit test records are maintained
- Ensures new hires are medically screened and trained before issuing a respirator or assigning them a task that requires the use of a respirator
- Provides and replaces respiratory protective equipment as needed

C. Supervisors

- Ensure that the employees are wearing respirators when needed
- Ensure that employees are using the selected respirator
- Ensure respirators are being properly cleaned, inspected, maintained, and stored according to the RPP requirements
- Ensure all their employees that use a respirator are properly trained and fit tested
- Monitor and report to OEHS:
 - Changes in condition in the work areas where respiratory protection is used
 - Employee exposures
 - Previously unrecognized respiratory hazards

D. Employees

- Follow District policy and manufacturer's instructions on respirator:
 - Use
 - Maintenance
 - Limitations
 - Medical Screening
 - Training
 - Fit Testing
- Notify the supervisor or OEHS of any condition or changes that may interfere with the use of a respirator
- Follow cartridge/filter change out schedule in accordance with this RPP

III. MEDICAL EVALUATION

Employees are not permitted to wear respirators (except for voluntary use of a filtering facepiece /N95) until a physician or other licensed healthcare professional has determined that they are medically able to do so.

Medical questionnaires and examinations will be administered confidentially during the employee's normal working hours or at a time and place convenient to the employee.

Medical evaluations will be conducted by a District-approved Occupational Physician:

- Evaluation will be conducted using a health questionnaire and medical exam, as needed

Employees will be:

- Provided a copy of the completed questionnaire
- Granted follow-up medical exams as required by the Occupational Physician
- Granted the opportunity to speak with the Occupational Physician about their medical evaluation

After an employee has received clearance and begun to wear their respirator, additional medical evaluations will be provided if:

- The employee reports signs and/or symptoms related to their ability to use a respirator, such as shortness of breath, dizziness, chest pains, or wheezing
- The Occupational Physician or supervisor informs OEHS that the employee needs to be re-evaluated
- Information from this program, including observations made during fit testing and program evaluation, indicates a need for re-evaluation
- A change in workplace conditions (e.g., physical work effort, protective clothing, temperature) that may result in a substantial increase in the physiological burden placed on an employee
- If other CAL/OSHA regulations require annual or more frequent medical evaluations

IV. TRAINING & FIT TESTING

Initial training and fit testing are provided prior to respirator use per District policy, Cal/OSHA regulations, and manufacturer's instructions. Annual training and fit testing will be conducted thereafter.

V. RESPIRATOR SELECTION

LAUSD employees in the RPP are issued respirators that are certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH).

A. Proper respirator(s) will be selected depending on:

- Type of Exposure
- Amount of Exposure
- Where and when the respirator must be used

B. Employees must use:

- Approved respirators selected for the specific operation
- The brand, make, model, style, and size of respirator for which they were trained and fit tested for

C. Types of Air Purifying Respirators:

- Half-Face
- Full-Face
- Powered air purifying respirator (PAPR)
- N95

Examples:

Half-Face Respirators



Full-Face Respirators



PAPR



N95 Disposable Respirators



3M



Byd



Makrite



Gerson

VI. APPLICATIONS

Respirators are used throughout LAUSD to protect employees from the following:

- Construction activities that may impact:
 - Asbestos
 - Lead
 - Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- Wildfires for protection against ash (fine particulates)
- Events that will generate nuisance dust
- Chemical spill response and clean up
- Welding
- Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATDs)
 - Avian Influenza
 - COVID-19
 - Novel Influenza (H1N1)
 - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
 - Tuberculosis (TB)
 - Others Listed on [Title 8, CCR, Section 5199 – Appendix A](#)

VII. LIMITATIONS

Respirator's limitations include but are not limited to the following:

- **Employees must never share their respirators!**
- Facial hair or any condition must not interfere:
 - Between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face of the user
 - The intake or exhaust valve function of the respirator

- If corrective glasses, goggles, or other personal protective equipment (PPE) are worn with a respirator, the employee must ensure that such equipment is worn in a manner that does not interfere with the seal of the facepiece to the face of the user

DO NOT:

- Remove respirators in hazardous environments
- Use in interior structural firefighting situations
- Alter, abuse, or misuse respirators
- Use in Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) atmospheres (i.e., oxygen enriched/deficient environments) which can:
 - Pose an immediate threat to life
 - Cause irreversible adverse health effects
 - Impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere
- Use for protection against unknown contaminants

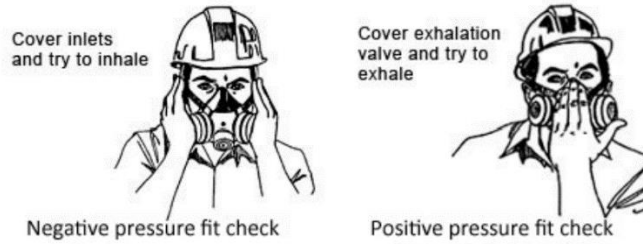
VIII. RESPIRATOR USE

Air-purifying respirators (APRs) must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, District policy, NIOSH, and CAL/OSHA regulations.

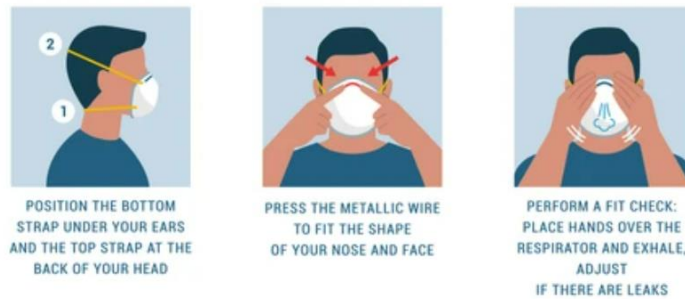
APRs work by removing gases, vapors, aerosols (airborne droplets and solid particles), or a combination of contaminants from the air using filters, cartridges, or canisters. The appropriate respirator for a particular situation will depend on the environment and the contaminant(s).

Each time a respirator is used, the user must complete the following:

- Inspect respirator in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (e.g. – missing or damaged valves)
 - **DO NOT USE respirator, if any deficiencies are found during inspection**
- Perform a User Seal Check:
 - **Full-Face/Half-Mask** – Positive & Negative User Seal Check



○ **N95** – User Seal Check



○ **DO NOT USE respirator**, if the User Seal Check **fails**

- **Clean** and **sanitize** their own respirators before and after each use
- Inspect their respirator after each use
- Store in a protected, convenient, clean, and sanitary location away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures:
 - **Full-face/Half-Mask** – Sealed plastic bag and container (avoid crushing or tearing)
 - **N95** – Clean and dry paper bag
- In case of an emergency, including respirator malfunction, immediately leave the area and replace it with a new respirator

IX. VOLUNTARY USE

A. Air Purifying Respirators (APRs)

- Voluntary use of air purifying respirators may be permitted under certain circumstances (this does not apply to the use of an N95 respirator):
 - Upon employee's requests for voluntary use, it must be evaluated and approved by OEHS.
 - If the voluntary use is approved, the following must be completed initially and at least annually:
 - Respiratory Protection Training
 - Fit testing

B. N95

- Voluntary use of N95 respirators may only be used to control exposure to nuisance levels of dust particulates and/or COVID-19.
- If the N95 mask is used voluntarily, the following information will be provided:
 - **Appendix D – T8 CCR, Section 5144**, (Mandatory) - *Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard*
 - Manufacturer's instructions
 - [Safety Alert 21-01](#) – Voluntary Use of N95 Respirators by Employees

X. PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

This RPP is evaluated by the OEHS on a periodic and/or as needed basis. Employees required to use respirators are consulted to determine the program's effectiveness. Issues identified are corrected in a timely manner.

XI. RECORDKEEPING

The following records are maintained in accordance with LAUSD's recordkeeping policies for at least five (5) years:

- Respirators approved for use
- Medical evaluations
- Exposure assessments
- Voluntary respirator use (if any)

The following records are maintained for at least one (1) year:

- Respirator training and qualitative fit test forms

XII. CARTRIDGE CHANGE OUT SCHEDULE

There are different types of cartridges compatible with APRs (excluding the N95 mask) for the protection of specific types of hazards. The cartridges are also color-coded to allow for easy identification and selection. Each cartridge/N95 mask will need to be replaced after certain time/conditions occur:

- **P100** - Filters only aerosols (e.g., dust, mists, fumes, smoke, mold, bacteria, etc). Some filters also have nuisance-level gas and vapor capabilities.
 - Replace if:
 - **Used for asbestos/lead, change after every 8-hour shift.**
 - Employee has trouble breathing
 - Cartridges are damaged or wet
 - **Only used for nuisance dust, change every 6 months or when having trouble breathing**
- **Gas and Organic Vapor** – There are different types of filters for specific types of gasses/vapors such as mercury vapor or anhydrous ammonia (refer to manufacturer’s instructions for more information).
 - Replace if:
 - Employee has trouble breathing
 - Employee can smell the Organic Vapor



- Cartridges are damaged or wet
- End-of-service-life indicator (ESLI) is visible



ESLI located in the midsection of the filter will turn dark to indicate the filter needs to be discarded and replaced.

- **Combination Stack P100/Organic Vapor** - Filters particles, gases, and vapors. Different combination particulate/cartridge filters are used depending on the gas or vapor present in the air.
 - Replace if:
 - **Used for asbestos/lead, change after every 8-hour shift.**
 - Employee has trouble breathing
 - Employee can smell the Organic Vapor
 - Cartridges are damaged or wet
 - **Only used for nuisance dust, change every 6 months or when having trouble breathing**



- **N95** - An N95 respirator is a type of disposable respirator that removes particles from the air that are breathed through it. These respirators filter out at least 95% of very small (0.3-micron) particles. N95 respirators can filter out particles, including bacteria, viruses, and dust.
 - Change after every 8-hour shift
 - Replace if damaged, deteriorated, elasticity damaged, or trouble breathing
 - Replace according to manufacturer's instructions
 - If N95 is damaged or wet



Examples of Filtered Cartridge Color Codes Regardless of Manufacturer:

Color	Type
White	Acid Gas
Black	Organic Vapors
Green	Ammonia Gas
Yellow	Acid Gas & Organic Vapor
Olive	Multigas (protects against numerous gases and vapors)
Magenta	Particulate Filter Cartridge (HEPA) (Also called P100)

XIII. LAUSD SAFETY ALERTS

OEHS Safety Alerts	Subject Matter
Safety Alert 22-01	EMPLOYEE USE OF N95, KN95, AND KF94 RESPIRATORS & SURGICAL MASKS FOR COVID-19
Safety Alert 21-01	VOLUNTARY USE OF N95 RESPIRATORS
Safety Alert 04-06	RESPIRATOR USE AND FIT TESTING

REGULATORY REFERENCES

1. Title 8 CCR §5144 – Respiratory Protection - <https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144.html>
2. Title 8 CCR §5144 (b) – Definitions - <https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5144.html>