Respiratory Protection in the Workplace

Are YOU wearing one of these?

N95 **HALF-FACE** **FULL-FACE** **POWERED-AIR PURIFYING**

Any personnel working with a chemical or non-biological particulate whose Safety Data Sheet (SDS) indicates respiratory protection is required, or in the absence of sufficient ventilation, will require respiratory protection. If respiratory protection is required in your workplace, then Texas A&M University employees must obtain prior review and approval by EHS to ensure the respirator is a good "fit" and is suitable for the job.

Why does EHS review and approve respirator use?

The review process ensures that an appropriate respirator is selected, and the individual is medically cleared, fit tested, and trained to wear the respirator. EHS provides these services at no cost to the employee.

How is it determined if I am fit to wear a respirator?

Personnel will complete a medical questionnaire annually, which is reviewed by an occupational health physician. Based on your medical history and work conditions, the physician will determine if you meet the health requirements to safely wear the respirator.
Note: Dust masks are not approved protection for respiratory hazards, but may be worn voluntarily.

What is a respirator fit test?

A respirator fit test is conducted annually to verify that a respirator is both comfortable and provides the wearer with the expected protection.

What is voluntary use of respirators?

Employees may voluntarily wear a respirator after an exposure assessment finds it is not required. If an employee chooses to wear a respirator in this circumstance, they are still required to receive medical clearance, but a fit test is not necessary.

*Learn more about respiratory protection by visiting the **EHS Respiratory Protection Program**. For further assistance, or to check if you or your group's respiratory protection is in compliance, contact EHS at **ehsd.occ.health@tamu.edu**. If your respiratory protection is required by the Office of Biosafety, see **bohp.tamu.edu**.*