

# FACT SHEET: Respiratory Protection

## Safe Work Practices



Respiratory protection is used to prevent employee exposure to airborne hazards encountered in the workplace. Hazards at Tulane that may require use of respiratory protection include chemical, biological, and radiological hazards. OSHA requires employers to have a comprehensive respiratory protection program when respiratory protection is used. Tulane's **Respiratory Protection Program** was developed to ensure the safety of Tulane employees who use respiratory protection.

### NEED TO KNOW:

1. Employees exposed to airborne contaminants above an exposure limit must be enrolled in Tulane's **Respiratory Protection Program**.
2. Employees must be trained, receive medical clearance, and be fit tested prior to using respiratory protection.
3. Contact OEHS at [oehs@tulane.edu](mailto:oehs@tulane.edu) with any questions or concerns about airborne contaminants or respirator selection.

### CONTROL OF INHALATION HAZARDS:

Tulane University follows the hierarchy of controls to mitigate respiratory hazards in the workplace:

- Eliminating or substituting respiratory hazards with less toxic substances
- Using engineering controls to isolate the hazard (enclosures or local exhaust ventilation)
- Using administrative controls such as developing standard operating procedures or limiting exposure time
- Using respiratory protection equipment

### TYPES OF RESPIRATORS USED AT TULANE:

Air purifying respirators are used at Tulane to mitigate exposure to particulates, gases and vapors, and biological hazards. The type of respirator used will depend on the hazard. Contact [oehs@tulane.edu](mailto:oehs@tulane.edu) if you have any concerns about airborne contaminants in the workplace or need help selecting the proper respiratory protection for the hazard.

- **N95 Respirators:** Also called filtering facepiece style respirators. These respirators are used for protection of aerosols, dusts, and particulates. In many cases they are used to protect against water-based aerosols that may carry infectious diseases.
- **Half-Face Respirators:** May be used against a variety of airborne contaminants. Must select the appropriate cartridge to provide respiratory protection up to 10 times the occupational exposure limit.
- **Full-Face Respirators:** Uses cartridges like half-face respirators and may protect against a variety of airborne contaminants. Provides protection up to 50 times the occupational exposure limit. Also provides eye and face protection.



### REQUIREMENTS FOR RESPIRATOR USE:

Training, Medical Clearance, and Fit Testing must be completed annually to maintain compliance and to ensure the employees is being provided the proper protection against contaminants.

- **Training** is conducted through the TULearn platform. Users of N95 respirators may take the specific [N95 Respirator Training](#). Training for other style respirators (half or full face respirators) should take [Basic Respiratory Protection Training](#).
- **Medical Clearance** is conducted to ensure the respirator user can wear a respirator. Typically, this is completed through a medical history questionnaire that is reviewed by a licensed healthcare professional.

Medical Clearance and Fit Testing for Tulane employees is completed through the Living Well Occupational Health Clinic at (504) 988-6224 or email at [tlwocchealth@tulane.edu](mailto:tlwocchealth@tulane.edu).

### MORE INFO:



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Tulane University: [Respiratory Protection Program](#)
- Tulane OEHS: [Respiratory Protection Website](#)
- OSHA: [Respiratory Protection](#)