

# Respirator Requirements

If you are required to wear a respirator for your work at the University, there are certain steps you need to take to make sure you are wearing it safely and appropriately. Anybody who is required to wear an N95-type respirator, a half-face, or a full-face respirator must complete the following steps.

## Hazard Evaluation

- Work with University Health & Safety to determine if a respirator is appropriate
- Repeat: As needed, or when hazards change in your job area

## Medical Clearance

- Request a medical evaluation online and complete the form that is emailed to you
- Repeat: As least every 5 years

## Training

- Complete the online Respiratory Protection training module
- Repeat: Annually

## Fit Test

- Complete a fit test using the respirator you will be wearing
- Repeat: Annually

## Hazard Evaluation

Before staff are required to wear respirators, an evaluation of the hazards in their area must be completed. Examples of potential hazards are dusts, particulate matter, harmful gases or vapors, or biological materials. Some jobs may already be assessed as requiring a respirator because of the nature of the job, such as direct-care clinic staff or painters. Others, such as researchers or other facilities personnel, will need a hazard evaluation to determine the level of hazard present, and if a respirator would be the best choice for ensuring your safety. University Health & Safety can assist in this process, as well as in selecting the best respirator for you to use and answering any other questions you may have. Call (612) 626-6002 to request a hazard evaluation.

## Medical Clearance

A medical evaluation can be requested online at the [University Health & Safety website](#), where it is listed as the first step of the Process for Respirator Medical Clearance. Once the request is approved by the Occupational Health office, an online evaluation will be emailed to you. Once you complete the evaluation form, it is reviewed by a physician within 2 business days. Most people will be medically cleared from this alone, though very rarely, you may need



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to be evaluated in-person. If this occurs, you will receive more information at that time. This step must be repeated every 5 years at a maximum, or at the interval the doctor requires.

### Online Training

Before you have your fit test, you must complete Respiratory Protection training. This can be done in-person or [online](#). If done in-person, it must be documented and kept on file with your area’s training records. If done online, the record will be available in the Training Hub. This step must be repeated annually.

### Fit Testing

Before you can use your respirator, you need to complete a fit test to make sure the type of respirator you are using will provide appropriate protection for you. You will need to schedule an appointment for your fit test, referencing the table below. Certain groups (i.e., University of Minnesota Police Department, Facilities Management – Hazardous Materials Program, Graduate Medical Education, etc.) may have their own procedures for fit testing. You should be informed about this by your program or department.

N95 or Filtering-Facepiece Respirators			
Location	Contact	Web/Email	Phone
Twin Cities	Healthpartners Clinics	<a href="https://bohd.umn.edu/clinical-services">https://bohd.umn.edu/clinical-services</a>	(952) 883-6999
Other Campuses	Occupational Health	<a href="mailto:uohs@umn.edu">uohs@umn.edu</a>	(612) 626-5008
All Other Respirators			
Location	Contact	Web/Email	Phone
Twin Cities	Kate Greenberg	<a href="mailto:kgreen15@umn.edu">kgreen15@umn.edu</a>	(612) 626-2707
Duluth	Andy Kimball	<a href="mailto:akimball@d.umn.edu">akimball@d.umn.edu</a>	(218) 726-6764
Crookston	Kim Jenkins	<a href="mailto:jenk0004@crk.umn.edu">jenk0004@crk.umn.edu</a>	(218) 281-8300
Morris	Dean Olsen	<a href="mailto:deolsen@morris.umn.edu">deolsen@morris.umn.edu</a>	(320) 589-6106
Other Campuses	Occupational Health	<a href="mailto:uohs@umn.edu">uohs@umn.edu</a>	(612) 626-5008

A fit test takes about 15-20 minutes. You are required to be clean-shaven for your fit test (and for any respirator use), and you should bring your respirator with to your appointment. Staff will answer any questions you have on the respirator program or using your respirator and perform your fit test. This step must be repeated annually.

### Other Questions

If you have any other questions about if you should be wearing a respirator for your work, or respirator use, selection, or requirements, call the University Health & Safety office at (612) 626-6002.