

COVID-19 Resources

Use of N95 Respirators



Q: Should we require employees to wear N95 respirators?

A: If the employer will provide N95 respirators based on job tasks and exposures, and require employees to wear a respirator due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the employer must have a written Respiratory Protection Program that addresses proper selection of respiratory equipment; employee training; medical evaluation of an employee's ability to wear a respirator; ensuring proper fit of the respirators; and proper respirator use, storage, and cleaning. The employer must also follow all other applicable requirements of [Title 8 §5144. Respiratory Protection](#).

Where respirator use is voluntary, the following applies:

The employer may provide N95 respirators at the workers' request or permit workers to use their own respirators. In this situation, employers are not required to have a written respiratory protection program or medically evaluate and fit test workers. However, the employer must ensure that the workers' use of a respirator will not create a hazard. The employer must also provide respirator users with the information contained in California Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 5144, [Appendix D](#), and must follow all other requirements in [section 5144](#), subsection (c)(2).

Resources:

[Cal/OSHA and CalOES: N95 Mask Commonly Asked Questions](#)

[Cal/OSHA: Respiratory Protection Fact Sheet](#)

[NIOSH and NPPTLL webpage: For Respirator Users](#)

[CDC Personal Protective Equipment: Questions and Answers](#)

[Guide to Respiratory Protection at Work – Appendix D](#)

Video resources:

[Donning and Doffing and User Seal Checks Video](#)

[Respirator Fit Testing Video](#)

[Other Respiratory Protection Videos](#)