


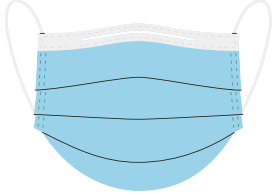



# Personal Protective Equipment: Respiratory

- Respirators are only used as a last resort in preventing harmful exposures and are NOT a substitute for other control measures.
- The goal of SJSU'S Respiratory Protection Program is to protect workers from from the hazards of airborne contaminants and to ensure that protective devices are properly selected, fitted, used and maintained properly.
- The respiratory protection program DOES NOT cover dust masks used for animal care and workshops or N95 respirators that people used during the pandemic.
- Always contact EH&S before purchasing respiratory protection equipment to ensure the correct type of PPE is being selected. Training, medical clearance, and fit testing must be completed annually to maintain compliance and to ensure that employees are being provided the proper protection against contaminants.

<p><b>N95 Respirators</b></p> 	<p>N95 respirators are also called filtering facepiece style respirators. N95 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. N95 respirators require fit testing.</p>
<p><b>Half-Face Respirators</b></p> 	<p>Half-face respirators may be used against a variety of airborne contaminants. You must select the appropriate cartridge to provide respiratory protection up to 10 times the occupational exposure limit. Half-face respirators require fit testing.</p>
<p><b>Full-Face Respirators</b></p> 	<p>Full-face respirators use cartridges like half-face respirators and may protect against a variety of airborne contaminants. They provide protection up to 50 times the occupational exposure limit. They also provide eye and face protection. Full-face respirators require fit testing.</p>
<p><b>Masks</b></p> 	<p>Cloth masks, surgical and procedure masks, and dust masks do not require fit testing. Cloth masks may protect others around you. Surgical and procedure masks protects the wearer against large droplets, splash and/or aerosols and protects others around you. Dust masks protect against against dusts, fumes, mists, microorganisms including animal allergens.</p>
<p><b>Respiratory Protection for Shops and Field Work</b></p> 	<p>Specialized eye &amp; face protection is required for hazardous <b>field work</b> tasks including: potential impacts from tools, machinery and materials; high-voltage electrical work; immersion into potentially hazardous water; work in extreme temperatures; extensive work in the sun; and work in dark environments. Ask your supervisor for help selecting respiratory protection for specialized work.</p>

## Need Help?

- Ask the lab/shop supervisor
- Ask the department/college safety staff
- Ask SJSU Environmental Health & Safety [ehs@sjsu.edu](mailto:ehs@sjsu.edu)