



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Operating Policy and Procedure

HSC OP: 75.12, **TTUHSC Guidelines for Using N-95 Respirators**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Health Sciences Center Operating Policy and Procedure (HSC OP) is to provide guidance in the voluntary use of N-95 respirators, and to promote compliance with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines supporting the use of N-95 respirators for protection from various diseases and conditions.

REVIEW: This HSC OP will be reviewed by September 1 of each even-numbered year (ENY) by the Director of Safety Services, the Chair of the Infection Control Committee, and the Office of Employee Health, with recommendations for revisions forwarded to the Dean of the School of Medicine by September 15.

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

1. Administration.

- a. The Respirator Program Administrator (known hereafter as the Administrator) will be responsible for the overall administration of the program under the supervision of the TTUHSC Infection Control Committee.
- b. The regional campuses at Amarillo, El Paso and Odessa, and Health Care Systems, are responsible for appointing a Respiratory Program Coordinator (known hereafter as the Coordinator) to implement the policy/procedure outlined below, as appropriate for each campus.
- c. Original copies of all records will be forwarded to and be maintained by the Administrator.

2. Recommended Uses.

- a. In some circumstances, the use of N-95 respirators is recommended for the following diseases and conditions:

Airborne Isolation Precautions	Dusts	Sanding Operations
Animal Carcass Handlers	Hantaviruses	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
Anthrax	Histoplasmosis	Smallpox
Autopsy Personnel	Influenza A (H5N1)	Terrorist Attacks
Avian Influenza	Measles (Rubeola)	Tuberculosis
Bird Flu	Microbiology Work	Varicella (Chicken Pox)
Blastomycosis	Mold Remediation	Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHF)
Coccidioidomycosis	Monkeypox	Working with Stool Specimens
Dental Health Care Personnel (DHCP)	Pathology Work	Respiratory Secretions Work
Dentists	Paint Spray	
	Pesticides	

- b. N-95 respirators are designed for protection from particulate contaminants, and **are not for use with gases or very small particle sizes**. Following is a list of examples of diseases and conditions **where N-95 respirators should not be used**:

Asbestos	High Hazard Levels	Smoke
Chemicals	Lead dust	Solvents
Gases	Silica	Vapors

- c. Consult the manufacturer's recommendations and guidelines for proper use of the specific respirator selected.

3. Applicable Personnel.

- a. Applicable personnel are defined as those who have access to N-95 respirators for the purpose of reducing personal exposure to the diseases and conditions listed above.
- b. This policy applies to the following TTUHSC personnel, as a minimum:
 - (1) All TTUHSC employees;
 - (2) All TTUHSC students working on an academic assignment; and
 - (3) All TTUHSC volunteers whose duties require associating with or are reasonably anticipated to have contact with any of the above diseases or conditions.
- c. This policy also applies to the following TTUHSC worksite locations, as a minimum:
 - (1) All TTUHSC facilities, including leased facilities;
 - (2) Hospitals;
 - (3) Nursing homes; and
 - (4) Correctional facilities.
- d. Personnel to whom this policy is not applicable include those who are assigned duties where the use of N-95 respirators or the use of other types of respirators is mandatory.

4. Responsibilities.

- a. Where conditions exist for occupational exposure to the diseases and conditions identified under section 2 above, N-95 respirators should be made available to personnel to reduce the risk of exposure. The Department Supervisor or Administrator should complete Attachment A, Hazard Assessment, and forward as appropriate.
- b. TTUHSC Safety Services will provide N-95 respirator training and fit testing. Attachment B, Qualitative Fit Test Record, will be used to record fit test results. Personnel receiving this training will be given a copy of the information contained in Attachment C of this HSC OP.
- c. Each TTUHSC department providing N-95 respirators shall provide respirators that are NIOSH certified and suitable for the purpose intended.
- d. TTUHSC department administrators are responsible for identifying applicable personnel who require access to N-95 respirators in relation to their assigned duties, and directing those personnel to the appropriate Administrator/Coordinator for training and fit testing.
- e. Coordinators are responsible for insuring that personnel identified by the department administrator are provided appropriate training and fit testing. The Coordinator will forward original documentation of training and fit testing to the Administrator in Lubbock.
- f. The Administrator is responsible for maintaining the appropriate training and fit testing records, monitoring respirator use, and evaluating the effectiveness of the program at least annually.
- g. Supervisors and users of N-95 respirators in each applicable TTUHSC department will be responsible for following this HSC OP and guidance provided by the Coordinators and Administrator.

- 5. **Disclaimer Statement.** TTUHSC reserves the right to interpret, change, modify, amend or rescind any policy in whole or in part at any time without the consent of employees.