

N95 Respirator Guidelines

COVID-19 Non-Mandatory-Voluntary Use Guidelines: (Cal-OSHA)-California Production Safety

Purpose

The novel corona virus, SARS-CoV-2, has been identified as the causative infectious agent of corona virus disease (COVID-19). To protect unvaccinated crew members production management will provide N95 respirators to crew members for protection against COVID19 or variants, if requested.

Some unvaccinated crew members may choose to wear an approved N95 respirator rather than just a face covering. It's your choice. Respirators will also be offered to crew members regardless of vaccination status if they work with others indoors, ride in a vehicle or there is concern of outbreak, if requested.

What is an N95 Respirator?

An N95 filtering face piece is an air-purifying type respirator certified by NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) to intercept and filter out particulate aerosols greater than 0.3 microns in diameter including any microbial organisms such as bacteria, viruses i.e., COVID-19 and variants that may be suspended in the air.

Production will only supply NIOSH Certified N95 respirators. A label stating NIOSH certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. An N95 provides a higher degree of protection against inhalation hazards if properly sized and fitted to wearer face.

[Infographic - Understanding the Difference, Surgical Mask, N95 Respirator \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Medical

Cal OSHA does not require medical evaluations for voluntary use respirators. However, it is important to advise that putting any device over breathing zone may make breathing more difficult for certain individuals with cardiovascular or respiratory conditions. Please consult your personal medical professional if you have concerns medically.

How do I request and use an N95?

Production will provide unvaccinated crew members with a NIOSH approved N95 “upon request.” Contact your Health and Safety Manager (HSM) if you desire to wear one.

If a crew member prefers to select and purchase their own respirator, contact your Production Management and/or HSM for proper reimbursement protocols. All COVID-19 unvaccinated crew members are encouraged to use appropriate respirators “should they request one”.

After completing the training request below, submit the Appendix D form to your Health and Safety Manager (HSM) to receive further instructions and obtaining your N95's.

Voluntary users are properly informed of how to use, the N95 prior to obtaining and using the respirator at work. For COVID Voluntary Use and Training: Please follow these three easy steps:

Step 1 – Complete Non-Mandatory OSHA Appendix D Form

Bring signed copy to your HSM (Appendix D of this document). They will help size N95 and provide you with an approved N95.

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Step 2 – Training Guidelines

For Proper inspection, sizing, putting on and taking off the N95, review, these 3 protocols

1. [OSHA 5- minute training video \(click\): \(60\) Putting on and Taking off a Mask](#)
 2. [Three Key Factors Required for a Respirator to be Effective Infographic \(cdc.gov\)](#)
 3. [Using Disposable Respirators \(ca.gov\) how to effectively use and seal the respirator to your face.](#)
- Demonstrate the proper use to your HSM and ask any questions.

Step 3 – Limitations, Cleaning/Maintenance/Storage, Recordkeeping

- Limitations-Do not wear N95 into atmospheres containing contaminants for which it is not designed to protect against. N95s will not effectively protect against gases, vapors, or small solid particles of fumes or smoke or oxygen-deficient environments. Review your manufacturer instructions on use, maintenance, cleaning and care.
- Facial hair is generally not recommended with N95 use as they can compromise the seal formed by face-to-respirator contact. If you decide to ask for a voluntary use N95 and you intend to maintain keeping facial hair, be advised there will be no added benefit using an N95 over that of the company issued face covers.
- Replace N95 if they get damaged, deformed, dirty, or difficult to breathe through. A best practice is to replace filtering facepiece respirators at the beginning of each shift. CDC recommends replacing a disposable filtering facepiece respirator, such as an N95, after it has been taken on and off five times.
- Perform a seal-check every time that you put the respirator on as demonstrated in the training guidelines.
- The HSM will document your training, fit and provide you with instructions on maintaining and cleaning/disposal for the N95.

For Additional Questions: Contact your HSM or Production Safety Manager.

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Appendix D

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged, even when exposures are below the exposure limit, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the worker. Sometimes, workers may wear respirators to avoid exposures to hazards, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by OSHA standards. If your employer provides respirators for your voluntary use, or if you provide your own respirator, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard.

You should do the following:

1. Read and comply with all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirators limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, certifies respirators. A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. It will tell you what the respirator is designed for and how much it will protect you.
3. Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

I have read the above information and I understand the requirements regarding respirator use. If I have any questions now or in the future, I will contact my Health and Safety Manager or Production Safety Manager.

Print Name _____ Dept. / Production _____

Sign _____ Date _____