

# Protocol Review: Volunteer Use Of Dust Masks

## Filtering Face Piece Respirators (i.e., Dust Masks)

- ✓ Dust masks are PPE, but provide very limited protection. They can sometimes provide comfort against hot/cold air and nuisance dusts and aerosols. In this, they “protect” against discomfort.
  1. Dust masks, such as an \*N95 and P100 may be used for aerosols, including airborne transmissible diseases. \*Meet NIOSH testing criteria for filtration of 0.3 micron size airborne particles.
  2. Face masks, such as surgical masks, provide some protection against liquid droplets, such as blood spatter and spit or large dust particles. These are not respirators and are for first aid/medical use only.
- ✓ Dust masks do NOT filter out hazardous gases or vapors.
- ✓ They are not suitable for hazardous particulates or very high concentrations of non-hazardous particulates  $\geq 10 \text{ mg/m}^3$ .
  1. Use of dust masks is subject to the SFSU Respiratory Protection Program, “volunteer use for comfort only” section as mandated by Cal/OSHA.
  2. Use is **voluntary** — A supervisor cannot require a worker in the COSE to wear one.
  3. For **comfort only**— Provides comfort in dusty environments or when doing a dusty job.
  4. **Voluntary Respirator Use Acknowledgement Handout** (Mandatory)—Discusses the limitations of dust masks, correct use, and requires a signature from the recipient.
- ✓ If a filtering facepiece respirator, “dust mask” is **required PPE** for a particular task, such use is subject to the full respiratory protection program
  1. In this case, EH&S must perform a hazard assessment to ensure the appropriate respiratory protection can be provided by this type of respirator.
  2. Initial and annual medical questionnaire, training, and formal fit testing is required.

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**Supervisors may NOT issue dust masks to anyone without a signed “ACKNOWLEDGMENT” on file for that person.**

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From Cal-OSHA Respirator Standard in 8 CCR 5144


## Appendix D to Section 5144: (Mandatory) Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard


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 heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirator’s 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 designated to protect against. For example, a **respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors or very tiny particles of welding fumes or smoke.**
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

### How to issue a dust mask.

1. Ask the requestor what they will be doing.
2. Have the requester read and sign the Voluntary Use Respirator Acknowledgement form. 
3. Review the limitations of dust masks
4. Remind them to do a seal check before after putting in on



Mandatory for Voluntary Users  
of Respirators/Dust Masks  
Rev. Dec 2018

#### Voluntary Respirator Use Acknowledgement

You have requested authorization to use a respirator on a voluntary basis during activities that may involve exposures to low-level, non-hazardous nuisance dust, odors or particulates. In accordance with the Cal/OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (8 CCR 5144, Appendix D) we are providing you with the following information. After reading the information below, please complete the section at the end and return the form to your supervisor or Principal Investigator.

The SFSU Respirator Program is managed by the campus EH&S office. Forward requests to use respirators for protection against hazardous air contaminants to [sfshs@sfsu.edu](mailto:sfshs@sfsu.edu)

#### Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the 8 CCR 5144 Standard

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

### Fit Testing and Medical Questionnaire

N95 dust Masks, such as the 3M 8210, are more formally called filtering facepiece respirators. For volunteer use, fit tests and a medical questionnaire are not required.

However, the user should still do a basic seal check to make sure it fits as securely as possible to maximize its ability to filter out dust. Review the procedure below with 3M 8210 dust mask recipients.



### Wearing Your Filtering Facepiece Respirator

1



Place the respirator over your nose and mouth. Be sure the metal nose clip is on top. With models 8210 or 07048, pre-stretch the straps before wearing.

2



Pull the top strap over your head until it rests on the crown of your head above your ears.

3



Pull the bottom strap over your head until it rests just below your ears.

4



Using both hands starting at the top, mold the metal nose clip around your nose to achieve a secure seal.

Filtering Facepiece Valved Respirator

Filtering Facepiece Non-Valved Respirator

### Check the Seal of Your Filtering Facepiece Respirator Each Time You Don the Respirator.



#### Positive Pressure User Seal Check

For Non-Valved Respirators

Place both hands completely over the respirator and *exhale*. The respirator should bulge slightly. If air leaks between the face and face seal of the respirator, reposition it and readjust the nose clip for a more secure seal. If you cannot achieve a proper seal, **do not** enter the contaminated area. See your supervisor.



#### Negative Pressure User Seal Check

For Valved Respirators

Place both hands over the respirator and *inhale* sharply. The respirator should collapse slightly. If air leaks between the face and face seal of the respirator, reposition it and readjust the nose clip for a more secure seal. If you cannot achieve a proper seal, **do not** enter the contaminated area. See your supervisor.

**⚠ WARNING**

**Respiratory Products**

These respirators help protect against certain airborne contaminants. Before use, the wearer must read and understand the user instructions provided as a part of the product packaging. A written respiratory protection program must be implemented meeting all the requirements of OSHA 1910.134 including training, fit testing and medical evaluation. In Canada, CSA standards 2944 requirements must be met and/or requirements of the applicable jurisdiction, as appropriate.  **misuse may result in sickness or death.** For proper use, see packaging instructions, supervisor, or call 3M 086230 Technical Service in USA at 1-800-243-4630 and in Canada at 1-800-267-4414.

General Offices  
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70-0707-0706-6

