

Respiratory Protection Resources and Requirements

This resource guide was developed to assist long-term care facilities with accessing the required training requirements for respirator users located in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

General Information About Fit Testing

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) employees who are required to wear respirators on the job must undergo a fit test to ensure the employee will remain protected against hazardous substances. An employee must be evaluated for proper respirator placement to ensure it is tight fitting upon hire. Fit testing must occur annually.

State Specific Information

Michigan

According to the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, qualitative fit testing does not have specific training requirements to administer. A person must be able to demonstrate they have received education or formalized training in fit testing to administer a fit test. A person must be able to demonstrate competency in fit testing upon request.

Fit testing should be done annually for all staff who may be required to use an approved National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) respirator as part of their job duties. Fit testing kits are available from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) – Long-term Care *Respiratory Protection Program (SNF/AL)*. Qualifying facilities include skilled nursing facilities, adult foster care, homes for the aged and assisted living communities.

To request these free respiratory fit testing kits, the facility's infection preventionist (or other designated facility employee) should complete the [order form](#). Respiratory fit testing kit orders will be placed at the end of each month. Following the kit shipment, MDHHS will reach out to offer training resources provided by the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) that may be useful in developing a respiratory protection program.

If you have any questions about this program or run into any issues with the form, please email MDHHS at wirthk4@michigan.gov.

Minnesota

According to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), qualitative fit testing must be conducted by a person that is able to demonstrate that they have received education and or training in fit testing. To find out more information please contact the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology Prevention and Control at (651) 201-5414.

Wisconsin

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), a person does not need to obtain a certification or hold a special qualification to perform a fit test. However, a person must receive training and demonstrate they are proficient in performing the test.

Wisconsin health care workers can receive formalized training via the Respiratory Protection Administrator Training program developed by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene. More information is available on the [Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene website](#).

Long-term care facilities and small businesses can receive a free onsite safety and health consultation service. The [consultation services](#) offer a variety of assistance including training and education on proper respiratory protection procedures and fit test training.

Long-term care facilities can request free fit testing kits from Wisconsin DHS. Facilities should specify they are requesting fit-testing kits when making a request. More information is available on the [DHS COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) website](#).

Resources

Training Opportunities

- [OSHA's Respiratory Protection Program](#): Free training to prepare workers for safe respirator use.
- [Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration Training](#)

Videos

- U.S. Department of Labor, [Respirator Safety](#)
- Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, [Respiratory Protection Program Requirements for COVID-19](#) (multiple videos)

Infographics

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) NIOSH, [Three Key Factors Required for a Respirator to be Effective](#)
- CDC NIOSH, [Facial Hairstyles and Filtering Facepiece Respirators](#)
- CDC NIOSH, [Important Steps for Using NIOSH-Approved N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators](#)

Guide

- OSHA, [Assigned Protection Factors for the Revised Respiratory Protection Standard](#)

Evaluation

- MDH, [Qualitative Fit Test Form](#)