

# Respiratory Protection in Healthcare: Practical Considerations for Respirator Use in Healthcare

During disease outbreaks, recommendations are often made to provide healthcare workers with respiratory protection. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) governs worksite respirator use in the United States. The OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134) requires employers to develop and implement a written site-specific respiratory protection program. This quick reference guide helps address some practical considerations and frequently asked questions for the use of respiratory protection in healthcare.

**This document has an associated video. Click the link below to access the video.**

The following short educational video provides additional information on certain considerations such as:

- Can you use filtering facepiece respirators beyond their shelf life?
- How can I extend the use of respirators?
- How do I disinfect powered air purifying respirators or elastomeric facepieces?

[Respiratory Protection in Healthcare: Practical Considerations for Respiratory Use in Healthcare](#)

3M has a variety of additional resources to help healthcare organizations implement their site-specific respiratory protection programs. The following list includes additional information on shelf life considerations and disinfecting powered air purifying respirators and elastomeric facepieces. For a full listing of available technical bulletins and training resources, visit [go.3M.com/coronavirus](https://go.3M.com/coronavirus).

## Additional 3M Resources

- [3M Filtering Facepieces Shelf Life Letter](#)
- [Respiratory Protection FAQ: Healthcare](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfecting 3M Reusable Half and Full Facepiece Respirators Following Potential Exposure to Coronavirus](#)
- [Tech Talk – Disinfectants and General Information](#)
- [3M Jupiter Powered Air Turbo Unit – Assembly and Operation Video](#)
- [3M Versaflo TR-300 Powered Air Turbo Unit – Assembly and Operation Video](#)
- [3M Ultimate FX Full Facepiece Reusable Respirator FF-400 Series Video library](#)

## Other Available Resources

- [U.S. OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard, 29 CFR 1910.134](#)
- [Hospital Respiratory Protection Program Toolkit](#)- joint effort of U.S. OSHA, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#). Center for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC)

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