

UCSC N95 Voluntary Use Requirements

Section 5144, Appendix D: (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 limitations of the respirator.
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 small solid particles of fumes or smoke.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

At UCSC the voluntary use of filtering facepiece respirators must be approved by EH&S and is only allowed under the following conditions:

- A. Campus staff and faculty **must** complete the N95 Voluntary Use training module on the UC Learning Center.
 1. Log on to the UC Learning Center at <https://learningcenter.ucsc.edu>. You will need your CruzID and your Gold Password to login.
 2. Search for N95 Volunteer Use or [copy and paste this link](#).
 3. Course description reads, "Voluntary use guidelines for N95 particle mask respirators. Updated in June 2019."
- B. Students, campus affiliates, and non-campus affiliates receiving N95s **must** watch the [N95 proper use video](#) (QR code at the top of the page) to learn how to properly don and doff the filtering facepiece.

If you have any questions regarding the proper use of an N95, please call EH&S at 459-2553.

