



## TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

### Operating Policy and Procedure

**HSCEP OP:** 75.12, TTUHSC El Paso Guidelines for medical use of N-95 Respirators

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) Operating Policy and Procedure (HSCEP OP) is to provide guidance in the voluntary use of N-95 respirators and to promote compliance with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines supporting the use of N-95 respirators for protection from various diseases and infections environments.

**REVIEW:** This HSCEP OP will be reviewed by September 1 of each even-numbered year (ENY) by the director of Safety Services, the chair of the Infection Control Committee, with recommendations for revisions forwarded to the dean of the School of Medicine or designee by September 15.

#### DEFINITIONS:

**Administrator** – Safety Services Senior Director responsible for overall program.

**Coordinator** – Designated staff member responsible for the coordination of the N-95 fit testing.

**Supervisor** – Staff member responsible for the oversight of designated employees and or staff members.

**Visitor** – An individual who is on campus for two weeks or less.

#### POLICY/PROCEDURE:

##### I. Administration.

- A. The medical respiratory testing program administrator (known hereafter as the Administrator, Senior Safety Services Director) will be responsible for the overall administration of the program under the supervision of the TTUHSC El Paso Infection Control Committee.
- B. Prior to being tested for medical use of an N-95 respirator, please comply with The Office of Occupational Health Medical Evaluation Questionnaire for use of N-95 Respirator.
- C. Original copies of records will be forwarded to the appropriate personnel and maintained as needed by each office.

##### II. Recommended Uses.

- A. In some circumstances, the use of N-95 respirators is recommended for the following diseases and conditions:

Airborne Isolation Precautions  
Animal Carcass Handlers

Hantaviruses

Severe Acute Respiratory

Anthrax	Histoplasmosis	Syndrome (SARS)
Autopsy Personnel	Influenza A (H5N1)	Smallpox
Avian Influenza	Measles (Rubeola)	
Bird Flu	Microbiology Work	Tuberculosis
Blastomycosis	Mold Remediation	Varicella (Chicken Pox)
Coccidioidomycosis	Monkeypox	Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHF)
Dental Health Care	Pathology Work	Working with Stool Specimens
Personnel (DHCP)		Respiratory Secretions Work

- B. Consult the manufacturer's recommendations and guidelines for proper use of the specific respirator selected.

### III. **Applicable Personnel.**

- A. Applicable personnel are defined as those who have access to N-95 respirators for the purpose of reducing personal exposure to the diseases and conditions listed above.
- B. This policy applies to the following TTUHSC El Paso personnel, as a minimum
- 1) All TTUHSC El Paso employees;
  - 2) All TTUHSC El Paso students working on an academic assignment
  - 3) All TTUHSC El Paso residents;
  - 4) All TTUHSC El Paso volunteers whose duties require associating with or are reasonably anticipated to have contact with any of the above diseases or conditions.
- C. This policy also applies to the following TTUHSC El Paso worksite locations, as a minimum:
- (1) TTUHSC El Paso facilities, including leased facilities;
  - (2) Medical Clinics, Faculty, Residents, Staff, Students and Visitors
- D. Personnel to whom this policy is applicable include those who are assigned duties where the use of N-95 respirators or the use of other types of respirators or personal protection equipment (PPE) is mandatory, including contractors.

### IV. **Responsibilities.**

- A. Where conditions exist for occupational exposure to the diseases and conditions identified under section 2 above, N-95 respirators should be made available to personnel to reduce the risk of exposure. The department supervisor or administrator will ensure the applicant has completed Attachment A, Respiratory Evaluation Questionnaire, and forward as appropriate.
- B. TTUHSC El Paso Safety Services will provide N-95 respirator instructions during fit testing. Attachment B, Qualitative Fit Test Record, will be used to record fit test results.
- C. Each TTUHSC El Paso department providing N-95 respirators shall provide respirators that are NIOSH certified and suitable for the purpose intended.
- D. TTUHSC El Paso department administrators are responsible for identifying applicable personnel who require access to N-95 respirators in relation to their assigned duties, and directing those personnel to the appropriate administrator/coordinator for training,

respiratory evaluation questionnaire and fit testing.

- E. Coordinators are responsible for ensuring that personnel identified by the department administrator have completed the medical evaluation questionnaire, the online training video, then sent to Safety Services for fit testing. The Office of Occupational Health will provide Safety Services documentation of acknowledgment of completion of their medical evaluation to the administrator.
- F. The Office of Occupational Health will maintain all health-related evaluations in the Texas Tech Health Manager system and send out respiratory evaluation questionnaires as needed.
- G. The administrator is responsible for providing instruction on fit testing, monitoring respirator use, and evaluating the effectiveness of the program at least annually.
- H. Supervisors and users of N-95 respirators in each applicable TTUHSC El Paso department will be responsible for following this HSCEP OP and guidance provided by the coordinators and administrator.

- V. Disclaimer Statement.** TTUHSC El Paso reserves the right to interpret, change, modify, amend or rescind any policy in whole or in part at any time without the consent of employees.