



RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM VOLUNTARY USE POLICY

PURSUANT TO

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

TITLE 8 SECTION 5144

Chino Valley Unified School District

VOLUNTARY USE OF RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The respiratory protection program at CVUSD is intended to protect employees from recognized health hazards. However, some employees may be irritated by the presence of non-hazardous air contaminants (such as nuisance dust, pollen, or animal dander). When use of a respirator will help to alleviate irritation and when the respirator itself is determined to pose no additional risk to the wearer, CVUSD employees will be allowed to voluntarily use respirators for comfort reasons. This policy describes responsibilities and procedures for obtaining approval and medical clearance for voluntary respirator use.

RESPONSIBILITIES

CVUSD has designated the Director Risk Management & Human Resources, in collaboration with applicable departmental Directors as the Qualified Person(s) responsible for managing this policy.

Employees who desire to use respiratory protection in voluntary use conditions will:

- Notify their supervisor of their request so that the Company can ensure that the employee has passed an appropriate medical evaluation and has been cleared to wear a respirator by the Company's consulting physician or other qualified third party PRIOR to respirator use.
- Have the Company assist in choosing the appropriate respirator to be used in each particular voluntary situation.
- Participate in mandatory training or, at minimum, employee provided the information contained in CCR Title 8 Section 5144 Appendix D (see attachment A) prior to voluntary use of a respirator.
- Ensure that use of respirators does not interfere with their ability to work safely.
- Ensure that respirators are not used without the approval of the Company.

Employees who choose to use respiratory protection voluntarily will:

- Obtain permission from their Supervisor to use a respirator.
- Read and understand the information contained in Attachment A of this document.
- Inspect their respirators before each use, and clean them after each use.
- Report any problems to their supervisor.

The Company and employee's Supervisor shall:

- Approve all voluntary respirator use to ensure that selected respirators will not pose an additional risk to employees. Only NIOSH approved respirators will be allowed.
- Ensure medical clearance is achieved prior to voluntary use of respirator based on the type of respirator selected and conditions of use.
- Maintain records of all voluntary respirator use.
- Conduct periodic reviews of departmental policies on respirator storage and use.

PROCEDURES

GENERAL

In their jobs, some employees may perform tasks which cause respiratory discomfort but where the CVUSD has determined do not pose a health risk. In these cases, CVUSD will not require that respiratory protection be worn, but individuals may request that they be provided respirators for voluntary use as a comfort solution. Individual employees who choose to use respiratory protection in voluntary environments (such as allergy prevention) must obtain permission from the Company. Departments which allow employees to use respirators voluntarily will log the types of respirators being used, the tasks being performed while respirators are worn, and the names of employees wearing the respirators.

HEALTH EVALUATION

The use of some respirators may impose an additional stress on the worker. Due to potential physiological stress while wearing a respirator, voluntary use of respirators requires employees to achieve medical clearance. Employees who voluntarily wear respirators must complete a medical evaluation questionnaire and have the Company's consulting physician review it. After review of the employee questionnaire, the consulting physician will, either, deem the employee fit to wear a respirator or require the employee to visit the physician for further evaluation. The goal of the physician is to determine if the respirator poses a risk to the employee and whether or not the employee is physically able to perform assigned tasks while wearing the respirator.

Medical Evaluations will be conducted by CVUSD's current health care provider(s).

RESPIRATOR SELECTION

Respirators worn for comfort in non-hazardous environments will be approved only when they are appropriate for protection against the irritating substances and when they pose no health risk to the wearer. The Company may make alternate recommendations if the selected respirator is inappropriate for the proposed use.

FIT TESTING

Fit testing is not required for voluntary respirator wearers. However, individuals voluntarily wearing tight-fitting respirators may be subject to a fit test exercise to ensure that the respirator achieves an effective mask-to-face seal. Fit testing will be performed by a qualified person. If fit testing will be performed on N95 respiratory protection, CVUSD will use, either, BITEK (Qualitative) or Porta Count (Quantitative) protocol.

MAINTENANCE

Each respirator user will have the responsibility for maintaining his/her own respirator. Parts should be replaced when needed. New respirators will be supplied when repair is not feasible.

INSPECTION

All respirators will be inspected before and after each day's use by the respirator wearer.

CLEANING, DISINFECTION AND STORAGE

Respirators will be cleaned and disinfected after each use according to procedures for specific respirators. Respirators will be stored away from any potential contamination in a clean, sanitary place, on a flat surface in a sealed container. Respirators must not be exposed to extreme temperatures. It is not acceptable to hang a respirator by its straps.

REPAIR

Respirators needing repair will be repaired by a competent, designated person using approved replacement parts only.

TRAINING

Employees who choose to use respiratory protection in voluntary conditions must be familiar with the information contained in CCR Title 8 Section 5144 Appendix D (Attachment A) of this document.

CVUSD VOLUNTARY USE APPROVAL

CVUSD has approved and, at it's discretion, may approve additional departments / environments to use respirators in voluntary use conditions. See appendix B for current approvals.

REFERENCES

California Code of Regulations, Title 8 Section 5144 Appendix D. *Respiratory Protection.*

A complete copy of the Cal OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard can be found at:

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/5144.html>

ATTACHMENT A
INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYEES USING RESPIRATORS
VOLUNTARILY *

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 designed 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.
 - *This information is taken from Appendix D to CCR Title 8 Section 5144, OSHA Respiratory Protection*

ATTACHMENT B

VOLUNTARY USE APPROVALS TABLE

Department	Type of Protection Used	Type(s) of Filtration
Maintenance	Half mask APR or filtering face piece	N95 particulate
Transportation	Half mask APR or filtering face piece	N95 particulate
Custodial	Half mask APR or filtering face piece	N95 particulate
Nursing	Filtering face piece	N95 particulate