



# OSHA Fort Worth and Dallas Area Office – Stakeholder and Alliance Partner Newsletter

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This news letter is designed to provide news and information regarding COVID 19 and current OSHA Operations and guidance. Please visit one any of the following links for additional information or contact the Fort Worth of Dallas Area Office for additional guidance.



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## OSHA-DOL General Information and additional guidance

OSHA's primary resource is the OSHA COVID-19 Official Webpage. This page is being updated routinely and we encourage you to review it frequently. Recent guidance released and housed on this page includes:

- Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 (Spanish)
- Prevent Worker Exposure to Coronavirus (Spanish)
- Worker Exposure Risk to COVID-19 (Spanish)
- Temporary Guidance on the enforcement of OSHA's Respiratory Protection standard:
  - o March 14 Memo: on Healthcare Respiratory Protection Annual Fit-Testing for N95 Filtering Facepieces During the COVID-19 Outbreak
  - o April 3 Memo: on Respiratory Protection Equipment Certified Under Standards of Other Countries or Jurisdictions During the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - o April 3 Memo: on Respiratory Protection and the N95 Shortage Due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic
- NEW Short video: Higher Risk Jobs Need Extra Protections to Keep Workers Safe
- NEW Poster: Steps All Workplaces Can Take to Reduce the Risk of Exposure to Coronavirus (Spanish)
- Visit OSHA's Publications webpage for other useful workplace safety information.



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## OSHA-DOL General Information and additional guidance

The Wage and Hour Division's (WHD) primary resource is the [WHD COVID-19 Official Webpage](#)

- Departmental national dialogue on the implementation of the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act \(FFCRA\)](#) The ideas and comments gathered from this dialogue will inform compliance assistance guidance, resources, and tools, as well as outreach approaches, that assist employers and employees in understanding their responsibilities and rights under the FFCRA. The dialogue will remain open until the close of business on April 10.

CDC's primary resource is the [CDC COVID-19 Official Web Page](#). This page is being updated routinely and we encourage you to review it frequently. Recent guidance released and housed on this page includes:

- [CDC COVID-19 Guidance Documents](#)
- [Strategies to Optimize PPE and Equipment](#) (Healthcare)
  - o [Decontamination and Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators using Contingency and Crisis Capacity Strategies](#) (Healthcare)
  - o [Strategies for Optimizing of N95 Respirators](#) (Healthcare)
- [Resources for Businesses and Employers](#)
- o [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- o [Cleaning and Disinfecting Building Facility](#)
- [Cases in U.S.](#)

The World Health Organization's (WHO) primary resource is the [WHO COVID-19 Webpage](#).



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OSHA memorandum that provides interim guidance for enforcing the Respiratory Protection standard located at <https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-04-03/enforcement-guidance-use-respiratory-protection-equipment-certified-under>

Outreach Trainers - Exceptions to Instructor-Led In-Person Requirement  
Outreach Trainers requesting exceptions to the instructor-led in-person classroom requirement for Outreach training contained in the OSHA Outreach Training Program Requirements must comply with all the other OSHA Outreach Training Program requirements.  
All 16 items in OSHA's Outreach Training Requirements Section V.R.2.a)-p) must be addressed in your exception request.



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## OSHA-DOL General Information and additional guidance

### Trainers 90-Day Grace Period

The 90-day grace period for Outreach Trainers who need to reauthorize starts the day their ATO resumes normal operations. It does not start with the expiration of their current authorization.

If you are unable to attend your update trainer class prior to your expiration, OSHA DTE has allowed UTA to offer a temporary 90-day grace period on a case-by-case basis. Please email your request for an extension of your trainer card expiration to [osha@uta.edu](mailto:osha@uta.edu) or your respective ATO.

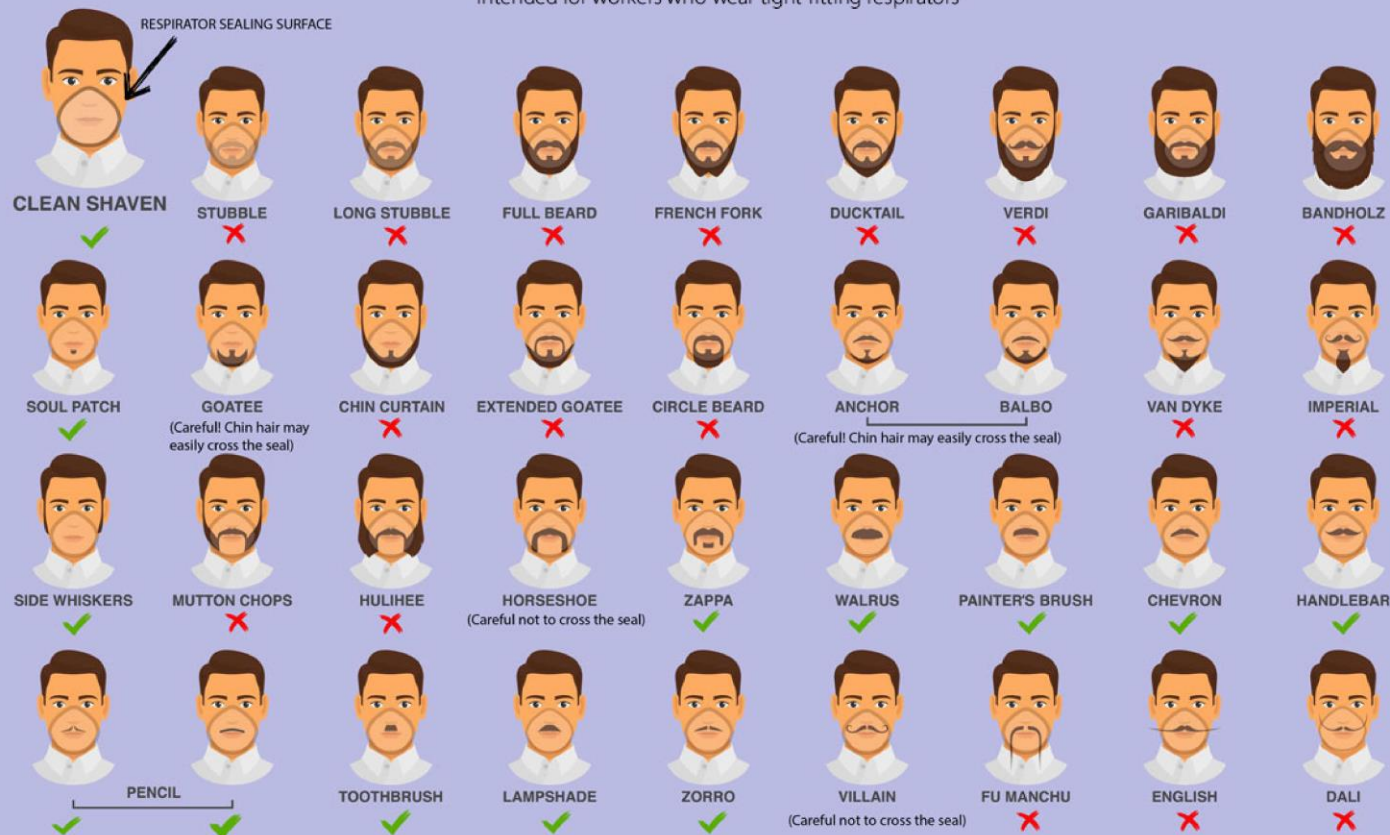




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## Facial Hairstyles and Filtering Facepiece Respirators

Intended for workers who wear tight-fitting respirators



Original image vector by freidisher/Shutterstock.com

\*If your respirator has an exhalation valve, some of these styles may interfere with the valve working properly if the facial hair comes in contact with it.  
 \*This graphic may not include all types of facial hairstyles. For any style, hair should not cross under the respirator sealing surface.  
 Source: OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard  
[https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=standards&p\\_id=12716](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=standards&p_id=12716)  
 Further Reading: NIOSH Respirator Trusted-Source Webpage  
[https://www.cdc.gov/miosh/hppt/topics/respirators/disp\\_part/resresource3fittest.html](https://www.cdc.gov/miosh/hppt/topics/respirators/disp_part/resresource3fittest.html)



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

2017

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration**



# OSHA Fort Worth Area Office and Dallas Area Office– Stakeholder and Alliance Partner Newsletter

## Understanding the Difference



**Surgical Mask**



**N95 Respirator**

### Testing and Approval

Cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Evaluated, tested, and approved by NIOSH as per the requirements in 42 CFR Part 84

### Intended Use and Purpose

Fluid resistant and provides the wearer protection against large droplets, splashes, or sprays of bodily or other hazardous fluids. Protects the patient from the wearer's respiratory emissions.

Reduces wearer's exposure to particles including small particle aerosols and large droplets (only non-oil aerosols).

### Face Seal Fit

Loose-fitting

Tight-fitting

### Fit Testing Requirement

No

Yes

### User Seal Check Requirement

No

Yes. Required each time the respirator is donned (put on)

### Filtration

Does NOT provide the wearer with a reliable level of protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles and is not considered respiratory protection

Filters out at least 95% of airborne particles including large and small particles

### Leakage

Leakage occurs around the edge of the mask when user inhales

When properly fitted and donned, minimal leakage occurs around edges of the respirator when user inhales

### Use Limitations

Disposable. Discard after each patient encounter.

Ideally should be discarded after each patient encounter and after aerosol-generating procedures. It should also be discarded when it becomes damaged or deformed; no longer forms an effective seal to the face; becomes wet or visibly dirty; breathing becomes difficult; or if it becomes contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



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## Understanding the Difference



**Surgical Mask**



**N95 Respirator**



**Elastomeric Half Facepiece Respirator**

Testing and Approval	Cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	Evaluated, tested, and approved by NIOSH as per the requirements in 42 CFR Part 84*	Evaluated, tested, and approved by NIOSH as per the requirements in 42 CFR Part 84
Intended Use and Purpose	Fluid resistant and provides the wearer protection against large droplets, splashes, or sprays of bodily or other hazardous fluids. Protects the patient from the wearer's respiratory emissions.	Reduces wearer's exposure to particles including small particle aerosols and large droplets (only non-oil aerosols)	Reusable device made of synthetic or rubber material
Face Seal Fit	Loose-fitting	Tight-fitting	Tight-fitting
Fit Testing Requirement	No	Yes	Yes
Designed for Reuse	No	No	Yes
User Seal Check	No	Yes. Required each time the respirator is donned (put on)	Yes. Required each time the respirator is donned (put on)
Filtration	Does NOT provide the wearer with a reliable level of protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles and is not considered respiratory protection	Filters out at least 95% of airborne particles including large and small particles	May be equipped with filters that block 95%, 99%, or 100% of very small particulates. Also may be equipped to protect against vapors/gases.
Leakage	Leakage occurs around the edge of the mask when user inhales	When properly fitted and donned, minimal leakage occurs around edges of the respirator when user inhales	When properly fitted and donned, minimal leakage occurs around edges of the respirator when user inhales
Use Limitations	Disposable. Discard after each patient encounter.	Ideally should be discarded after each patient encounter and after aerosol-generating procedures. It should also be discarded when it becomes damaged or deformed; no longer forms an effective seal to the face; becomes wet or visibly dirty; breathing becomes difficult; or if it becomes contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids.	Reusable and must be cleaned/disinfected and stored between each patient interaction

\*As of July 2, 2020, NIOSH and CDC have issued a call for wear in health care for Minimum 94% Filtration, Reusable, and Seal-Resistant to ensure consistency in relevant standards' design approval process. These masks were previously pre-approved by the FDA.



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Resources  
Hospital Respiratory Protection Program Toolkit  
<https://www.osha.gov/ohsc/hosp-resp-protection-program-toolkit>  
Hospital and Long-Term Care Respiratory Protection Program: Designing the Field  
<https://www.jahonline.org/doi/abs/10.1093/jahline/ahz014>





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## **A note from our Fort Worth OSHA Area Director, Timothy Minor**

“The OSHA Fort Worth Area Office continues to function and provide essential OSHA services as we enter the second week of the combined COVID response. We will continue to distribute this news letter as new information becomes available. Please contact us with any work place related issues or concerns and rest assured that we stand by ready to assist as always.”

## **A note from our Dallas OSHA Area Director, Basil Singh**

“The OSHA Dallas Area Office continues to function and provide essential OSHA services as we enter the second week of the combined COVID response. We will continue to distribute this news letter as new information becomes available. Please contact us with any work place related issues or concerns and rest assured that we stand by ready to assist as always.”

# Disclaimer



This information has been developed by an OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist and is intended to assist employers, workers, and others as they strive to improve workplace health and safety. While we attempt to thoroughly address specific topics [or hazards], it is not possible to include discussion of everything necessary to ensure a healthy and safe working environment in a presentation of this nature. Thus, this information must be understood as a tool for addressing workplace hazards, rather than an exhaustive statement of an employer's legal obligations, which are defined by statute, regulations, and standards. Likewise, to the extent that this information references practices or procedures that may enhance health or safety, but which are not required by a statute, regulation, or standard, it cannot, and does not, create additional legal obligations. Finally, over time, OSHA may modify rules and interpretations in light of new technology, information, or circumstances; to keep apprised of such developments, or to review information on a wide range of occupational safety and health topics, you can visit OSHA's website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).