

## Voluntary Filtering Facepiece Respirator (Dust Mask) Use Form

MCPS employees are permitted to voluntarily use filtering facepiece respirators in the workplace where they are not exposed to hazardous concentrations of air contaminants. **Please read the information below, fill in the blanks, and send the completed form to Systemwide Safety Programs.**

### OSHA-Required Information for Employees Using Respirators Voluntarily

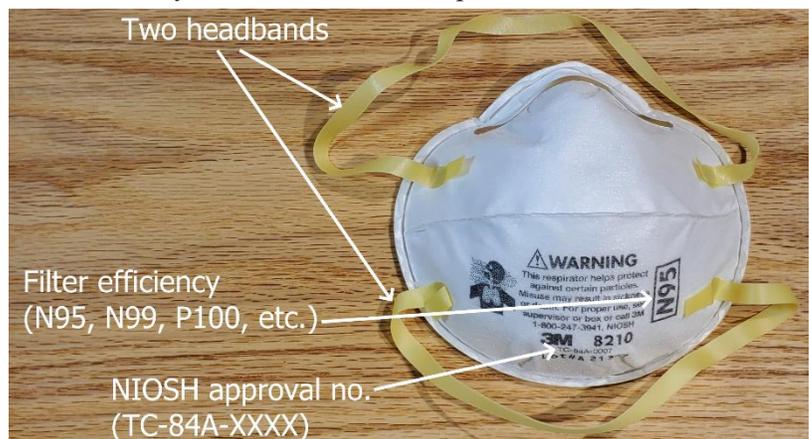
Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged, even when exposures are below the exposure limit, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers. However, if a respirator is used improperly 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 air 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 environments containing air contaminants your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles only (like most filtering facepiece respirators) will not provide protection against gases and vapors.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

Example of a filtering facepiece respirator. Most have two headbands – masks with one headband or earloops are not respirators. Filtering facepiece respirators also have required markings:

- NIOSH in block letters or NIOSH logo
- NIOSH approval no. (starts with TC-84A-)
- Filter efficiency, such as N95, N99, P100, etc.
- Model or part number



**Please complete the information below and email this form to [Peter\\_Park@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Peter_Park@mcpsmd.org) or fax to 301-279-3061. Provide a copy of the completed form to your supervisor and save a copy for your records.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Employee ID No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the provided information.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_