Informed Consent for Voluntary Respirator Use - Students

This form is to be completed if you have chosen to voluntarily use a respirator for protection although a respirator is not required for your research, lab class, academic/clinical program, project, or assigned tasks. If you choose not to complete this form, you must be evaluated by VCU Student Health Services or another licensed healthcare professional to get medically cleared to use a respirator. If you are a wage student or VCU employee, you must contact EHS-SRM to complete a Respiratory Evaluation Questionnaire.

Your advisor, principal investigator or designated class representative is also responsible for providing you with the following information:

✔️ The specific chemicals, microorganisms, or particulates that you may be potentially exposed to; how to protect yourself from these substances; what to do if you think you are exposed or develop symptoms;

✔️ Personal protective equipment – clothing, gloves and eye-wear selection;

EHS - SRM will provide you with information about:

✔️ Respirator selection and fit-testing requirements;

✔️ Medical limitations of tight-fitting respirator use (a person with asthma or a heart condition is strongly advised to consult a doctor before the respirator fit test takes place);

By signing this form, you indicate that you were given the opportunity to attend classroom or on-line respirator training; you understand the nature of potential health hazards associated with the research or project that you are participating in, you understand the limitations of respirator use, you have read the attached Appendix D, and had the opportunity to ask any questions.

Name: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Please check the boxes that apply:

☐ I am not aware of any medical limitations that will prevent me from wearing a tight-fitting respirator. I can proceed to the fit-test.

☐ I would like to take the time and talk to a doctor about my ability to wear a tight fitting respirator. (Please have your doctor provide a written note indicating you have been medically cleared to use a respirator and then contact EHS-SRM to schedule your fit test).

☐ I have read and understand the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.134 Appendix D for voluntary use of my respirator.

☐ I would like to be fit tested. ☐ I would not like to be fit tested.
Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged, even when concentrations 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. You need to take certain precautions to be sure that your respirator itself does not present a hazard during use.

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 respirators 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.