



Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency

Serving San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties

Virginia Hastings, Executive Director

Reza Vaezazizi, M.D., Medical Director

DATE: April 27, 2010

TO: Hospital CEOs
Long Term Care Facilities
EMS Providers
Public Health and Clinics

FROM: Virginia Hastings
Executive Director

SUBJECT: RESPIRATORY PROTECTION FOR HEALTHCARE EMPLOYEES TRAINING

ICEMA has partnered with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, better known as Cal/OSHA to offer training to help prepare your facility to protect your employees from pandemic flu and other aerosol transmissible diseases. This training will cover Respiratory Protection for Health Care Employees under the new Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) standard. The purpose of the training is to provide greater capacity in hospitals, long-term care facilities, community clinics and other healthcare provider/response agencies to train and fit-test employees in their own facilities for respirators.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to enhance your facility's and our county's pandemic preparedness. The training will be offered free of charge.

We are inviting your facility or agency to send two representatives to the training. These individuals should:

1. Be willing and able to provide respirator training and fit testing in your facility and/or community following the training.
2. Know what respirators are provided and used (if any) in your facility and bring samples (3 models and/or sizes per person if available) to the training.
3. Receive medical clearance to wear a respirator prior to the training, and bring a signed copy of the medical clearance form to the training. (See Appendix A for more information).

This training will include:

1. Overview of Cal/OSHA's Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standard and when/how it applies in your facility or agency.
2. Elements of a Respirator Program.
3. Basic Principles of Infection Control.
4. Hands-on practice in how to fit test staff.

This training is co-sponsored by:

Center for Occupational and Environmental Health Continuing Education Program, UC Berkeley
California BRN Provider # 12983

This class is approved for 4 contact hours.

Nurses who would like to receive BRN credit will be required to fill out a registration form at the training session and bring a check for \$15 written to UC Regents. Certificates will be mailed to participants after the training session.

We hope you are able to take advantage of this opportunity to send two of your staff to this free training so that your facility will be better prepared to protect staff from pandemic influenza or other aerosol transmissible disease. If you have any questions about the training, or to register for the class, please email Kate Durand at CDPH kate.durand@cdph.ca.gov.

Please feel free to contact Jerry Nevarez, RN, at jnevarez@cao.sbcounty.gov or (909) 388-5820 if you need additional information.

VH/jlm

Enclosures

c: Reza Vaezazizi, MD, Medical Director, ICEMA
Maxwell Ohikhuare, MD, Public Health Officer, SBC Public Health
Jerry Nevarez, RN, HPP Coordinator, ICEMA
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PREPAREDNESS FOR RESPIRATOR USE IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

A free training session offered by California Department of Public Health in partnership with Cal-OSHA, CAHF, CPCA, CHA, CRIHB, the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA), and the Riverside County Community Health Agency (CHA)

Each Participating Facility/Agency will receive a free 3M Fit Test Kit



San Bernardino County

WHEN: May 19, 2010
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WHERE: Kaiser Fontana – Palm Court II
17284 Slover Ave
Fontana, CA 92337
Classrooms 1 & 2 and 6 & 7

Riverside County

WHEN: May 20, 2010
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WHERE: Sherman Building
3900 Sherman Drive
Riverside, CA 92503
Jenner/Sanger Classrooms

Appendix A: Instructions for Obtaining a Medical Clearance for Respirator Use

The following information is summarized from the respiratory protection standard (8CCR 5144), subsection (e) Medical evaluation.

Using a respirator may place a physiological burden on employees that varies with the type of respirator worn, the job and workplace conditions in which the respirator is used, and the medical status of the employee. Accordingly, this subsection specifies the minimum requirements for medical evaluation that employers must implement to determine the employee's ability to use a respirator.

- 1) General. The employer shall provide a medical evaluation to determine the employee's ability to use a respirator, before the employee is fit tested or required to use the respirator in the workplace.
- 2) Medical evaluation procedures:
 - (A) The employer shall identify a physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP) to perform medical evaluations using a medical questionnaire or an initial medical examination that obtains the same information as the medical questionnaire. ***You can find a PLHCP who is knowledgeable regarding the procedures for medical evaluation and approval to wear a respirator at your industrial medicine clinic.***
 - (B) The medical evaluation shall obtain the information requested by the questionnaire in Sections 1 and 2, Part A of Appendix C of the respiratory protection standard (5144) for any type of respirator. **For employees who use only N95 filtering facepiece respirators solely for compliance with subsections (g)(3)(A) and (g)(3)(B) of 8CCR 5199, the alternate questionnaire in Appendix B may be used.**
- 3) Administration of the medical questionnaire and examinations.
 - (A) The medical questionnaire and examinations shall be administered confidentially during the employee's normal working hours or at a time and place convenient to the employee. The medical questionnaire shall be administered in a manner that ensures that the employee understands its content. The completed questionnaires contain personal medical confidential information and should be transmitted to the PLHCP without review by the employer.
 - (B) The employer shall provide the employee with an opportunity to discuss the questionnaire and examination results with the PLHCP.
- 4) Supplemental information for the PLHCP.
 - (A) The following information must be provided to the PLHCP before the PLHCP makes a recommendation concerning an employee's ability to use a respirator:
 1. The type and weight of the respirator to be used by the employee;
 2. The duration and frequency of respirator use (including use for rescue and escape);
 3. The expected physical work effort;
 4. Additional protective clothing and equipment to be worn; and
 5. Temperature and humidity extremes that may be encountered.

Records of medical evaluations required by this section must be retained by the employer.