

Voluntary KN95 Respirator Use

Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under OSHA Standard 1910.134

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. William & Mary has provided respirators for your voluntary use and 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 respirators limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) 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. **A KN95 respirator filtering face piece respirator is designed and tested to meet international standards. It is currently not NIOSH approved. Do not wear a KN95 if your job requires a NIOSH-approved respirator.**
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. **A KN95 is not to be worn in an atmosphere that a respirator in which you have been fit tested is required.**
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.
5. Do not wear a KN95 respirator:
 - If it is difficult to breathe while wearing it
 - If it is wet or dirty
 - If it has exhalation valves, vents or other openings
 - With other masks or respirators

By signing below, you are indicating that you have read and understand the information provided on this form, and are accepting responsibility for voluntary use of respiratory protection. You are agreeing to be responsible to ensure you are medically healthy enough to use a filtering face piece respirator. If you are purchasing a KN95 respirator for personal use, you accept responsibility for the quality of the respirator.

Employee Name (Print)

Employee Signature

Date