

## Voluntary Use Form

### Instructions:

1. Please provide this document to all employees who are using respirators voluntarily.
2. All employees using respirators voluntarily must: read and then sign this document.
3. Departments/Units must send the signed document to EHS.
4. Contact EH&S at 255-8200 with any questions concerning the voluntary use of respirators.

### **Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required OSHA Standard 1910.134 Appendix D**

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 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 and smoke.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.

### **Information about the available respirator(s) for Voluntary Use at Cornell:**

- Are disposable/single use respirators
- Are designed to protect against particulates and biological hazards
- N95 is the most common type or class
- Do not typically offer chemical protection
- If the respirator is damaged or breathing becomes difficult, remove the mask immediately

Employee Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Net ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Submit to EHS**

Form HS12_F004 Revision: 1 Effective: 5/20/2015	Departments must keep the original signed document for their records and send a copy to EHS.	Department
---	---	------------