

Overview:

MultiCare OccMed provides the following OSHA/L&I DOSH compliant respirator services for employers with a compliant respirator protection program/policy. Respirator services are not available on a private pay basis.

Medical clearance to wear a respirator at work: Medical clearance by a licensed healthcare professional to wear respirators at work is mandatory with certain exemptions. Here is a link to Washington Administrative Code pertaining to respirator medical evaluations: [WAC 296-842-14005](http://www.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=296-842-14005)

- **Respirator questionnaire review**, using either paper or secure web MultiCare OccMed versions of the OSHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire.
 - Contains employee private health information and should not be reviewed by the employer.
 - OSHA & DOSH rely on medical providers to determine if an individual can be cleared from questionnaire review, or if an exam is required. At the medical providers’ discretion, individuals who are not cleared based on the form will be asked to make an appointment for a respirator certification exam. MultiCare OccMed strongly recommends employees using SCBA be seen for an exam.
- **Respirator certification exam** at our clinics. This includes:
 - Respirator questionnaire review, if not already completed.
 - Vitals & urine dip test
 - Medical provider exam
 - Pulmonary function test (PFT aka Spirometry).
 - Rarely, the medical provider will require a chest x-ray or other diagnostic tests. As a matter of risk and cost management, most employers require prior approval before proceeding with x-rays.
- **Result documentation:** Employer receives a clearance form with the clearance determination. It contains no private health information. We can send by email, fax or US Mail.

Respirator Fit Testing (qualitative)

- Fit testing determines if a specific mask fits well on a specific employee. It does not provide medical clearance to wear a respirator at work.
- Qualitative fit testing is a pass/fail method utilizing the sense of taste or smell, or the employee’s reaction to an irritant in order to detect leakage into the respirator. It does not measure the actual amount of leakage.
- Qualitative fit testing is suitable for filtering masks such as N-95 and half-face industrial masks. Full face and masks with air lines cannot be tested by this method.
- Fit testing is mandatory but does not require a medical provider. Many employers do this in-house.
- The employee must bring the mask to be tested.
- Employee must be clean shaven.
- Result documentation: Employer receives a fit test record.

To Enroll your company for MultiCare OccMed respirator services, *send the following to Account Services:*

1. *If your company does not already have a commercial account with us:* A completed and signed Account Application.
2. Completed and signed Respirator Service Enrollment form. Download at www.multicareoccmcd.org.
Click “Client Resources.” The form requires information from your respirator policy/program of record.
If you need to develop your program/policy, Washington L&I/DOSH has excellent downloadable templates. Visit this link: <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/preventing-injuries-illnesses/create-a-safety-program/sample-safety-programs-plans> and scroll down to Respiratory Protection.

More Web Resources

Washington L&I Respiratory Protection	https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-rules/chapter-pdfs/WAC296-842.pdf
OSHA Respiratory Protection site	https://www.osha.gov/respiratory-protection