

Respirator Training Classes Cancelled

Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) has cancelled all respirator training classes for at least April and May, to allow for the social distancing requirements and to preserve vital resources needed for the University's response to the novel coronavirus outbreak. Respirator training classes will resume once the COVID-19 risk abates. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and ask for your understanding as we respond to this unprecedented situation.

ISU employees that have previously completed initial respirator training may continue to use the respirators they are approved to wear, even if they receive recall notices for recertification training and fit testing, assuming that there has been no changes in medical status, respirator brand, model or size. Employees will be asked to seek recertification when classes resume. Individuals may sign up for dates later in the year, but be advised that more cancellations may be necessary. Please check the course schedule on Learn@ISU for the most up-to-date list of course offerings.

For employees in need of initial respirator training, we ask supervisors to evaluate an employee's immediate need for this protection. If possible, EH&S asks that work duties requiring these individuals to wear a respirator be reassigned or postponed until restrictions are relaxed. In the interim, EH&S will evaluate and approve certification requests on a case-by-case basis. Special consideration will be given to employees performing the following functions:

- Responding to suspected cases of coronavirus, medical, emergency response, cleanup, etc.
- Conducting research involving coronavirus

If you have employees in this category, please contact Rich McColley (515-294-9561) or Paul Hokanson (515-294-6749) with a request for consideration. If approved to advance, EH&S will work with you to schedule medical approval, training and fit testing.