



# APIC

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# **PAPRS and PANDEMICS: The Infection Preventionist Perspective**

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- The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) is the leading professional association for infection preventionists (IPs) with more than 15,000 members. [Our mission](#) is to create a safer world through the prevention of infection. This is achieved by the provision of better care to promote better health at a lower cost.
- Most APIC members are nurses, physicians, public health professionals, epidemiologists, microbiologists, or medical technologists who:
  - Collect, analyze, and interpret health data in order to track infection trends, plan appropriate interventions, measure success, and report relevant data to public health agencies.
  - Establish scientifically-based infection prevention practices and collaborate with the healthcare team to assure implementation.
  - Work to prevent healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) in healthcare facilities by isolating sources of infections and limiting their transmission.
  - Educate healthcare personnel and the public about infectious diseases and how to limit their spread.



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## **APIC Position Paper: Extending the Use and/or Reusing Respiratory Protection in Healthcare Settings During Disasters**

**Co-Authored by APIC Emergency Preparedness Committee, Public Policy Committee and  
Regulatory Review Panel**

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<http://www.apic.org/Advocacy/Position-Statements/Respiratory Protection Use in Healthcare During Disasters>

## **Advantages**

- provide eye protection
- are comfortable to wear
- allowing use if the employee has facial hair
- do not requiring fit-testing

## **Disadvantages**

- impede ability to auscultate patients' heart and lungs
- limit ability to communicate when wearing the device
- may cause patient apprehension (especially among pediatric patients)
- require training on proper use and care
- must be decontaminated according to the manufacturer's instructions after each use
- require storage, power, and batteries
- are more expensive

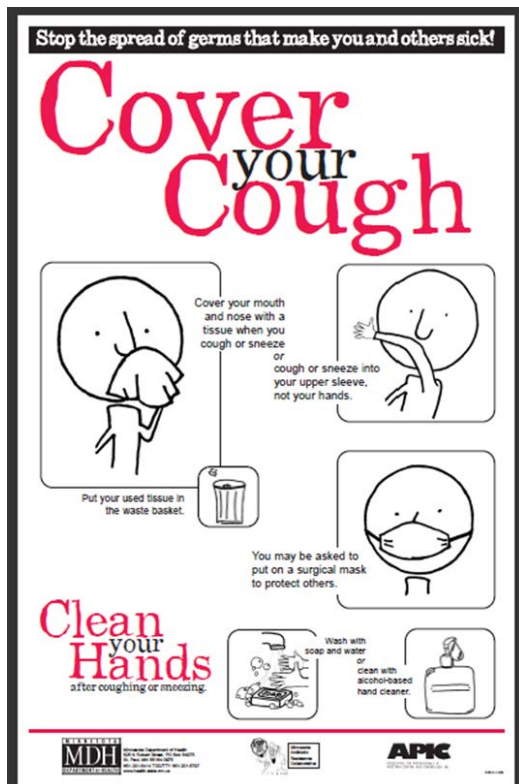
# “Infectious Disease” PAPRs



- Prioritize allocation of N95 respirators and masks based on exposure risk.
- The time to plan is now.

- **When respirator/mask supplies are scarce or insufficient** even after the facility has
  - obtained additional supplies from local, regional, or national sources, and
  - examined the feasibility of reusable respirators (PAPRs, elastomeric respirators, etc.)
- **APIC recommends that facilities:**
  - implement extended use and/or reuse procedures
  - create and follow protocols to prioritize healthcare personnel to receive respirators/masks based on their exposure risk
  - determine exposure risk based on the facility's exposure risk analysis that is part of emergency management planning, including personnel's immune status





- Visual Alerts
- Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette
- Masking\* and Separation of Persons with Respiratory Symptoms
- \*Either procedure masks (i.e. with ear loops) or surgical masks (i.e. with ties) may be used to contain respiratory secretions (respirators such as N-95 or above are not necessary for this purpose)

# PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

- Enacted August 2009
- Immunization Requirements
- Respiratory Protection

## Subsection (g)(3)(B):

- Requires PAPRS for high hazard activities for suspect or confirmed airborne infections
- High hazard activities
  - Sputum Induction
  - Bronchoscopy
  - Aerosolized administration of medications
  - PFT
  - Other procedures that may aerosolize pathogens

- EXCEPTION 1 to subsection (g)(3)(B): Enclosing the patient
- EXCEPTION 2 to subsection (g)(3)(B): Paramedics and other emergency medical personnel in field operations may use a P100, R100 or N100 respirator in lieu of a PAPR

- PAPR rule was not yet in effect
- Authorized reuse of N95s
- Required training of staff
- Staff had to be fit tested again if different style of N95 brought in
- No reports of occupationally-acquired infection in my facility

- PAPRS are part of the personal protective equipment armory
- May be preferentially considered for high risk (aerosol producing) procedures and activities
- Are not a panacea during pandemics

## **Top 3 barriers to, or opportunities to improve, effective usage of PAPRs in health care settings:**

- Size of battery/power packs, hoods
  - Female workers
  - Storage
- Easy to clean and disinfect
- Noise of unit



## Top idea to improve NPPTL certification

- Consider Healthcare special needs



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