

SESSION III: Understanding Respiratory Protection Needs,
Current Practices, and Barriers to Use by Workers
without Respiratory Protection Programs

**Understanding the Needs
of Specific Worker Populations:
Healthcare**

National Academy of Sciences
Committee on Respiratory Protection
for the Public and Workers without
Respiratory Protection Programs at
their Workplaces
January 25, 2021, via Zoom

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Understanding the Needs of Specific Worker Populations: **Healthcare**

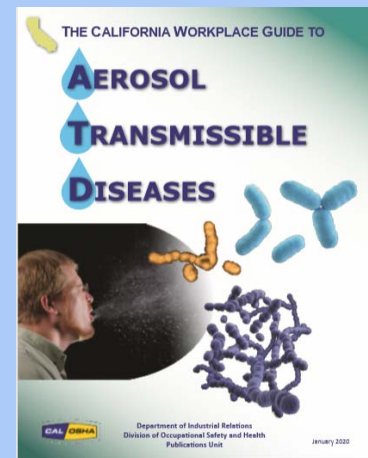
- Brief description of the characteristics of the worker population(s), the inhalation hazard(s) to which they are exposed, and consequent health effects
- Current practices related to use of respiratory protection to mitigate exposure to the inhalation hazard(s)

California OSHA Code of Regulations, title 8, section 5199. Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) Standard

Adopted May 2009

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5199.html>

- (a) Scope and Application
- (b) Definitions
- (c) Referring Employers
- (d) Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Exposure Control Plan
 - List of All Job Classifications in Which Employees Have Occupational Exposure
 - List of All High Hazard Procedures (more protective respirators needed)
 - List of All Assignments or Tasks Requiring Personal or Respiratory Protection
- (e) Engineering and Work Practice Controls and Personal Protective Equipment
- (f) Laboratories
- (g) Respiratory Protection (incorporates 1998 OSHA respirator standard, plus additional provisions)
- (h) Medical Services
- (i) Training
- (j) Recordkeeping



Scope of ATD Standard (who is covered)

Healthcare settings

- Hospitals, clinics, long-term care, medical offices, emergency medical services
- Some public health operations, e.g. contact tracing for TB, influenza clinics during outbreak

Specific high-risk environments

- Correctional facilities (jails and prisons)
- Homeless shelters
- Drug treatment programs

Other applications

- Laboratories that handle “Aerosol Transmissible Pathogens”
- Some law enforcement personnel

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- Unmet needs/barriers to use of respiratory protection by the worker population(s)
 1. Focus not on workers but on healthcare employer responsibility for assessing respiratory hazards, and establishing comprehensive respirator programs, per 1998 OSHA Standard

- Opportunities to address current gaps in respiratory protection
 1. Address healthcare industry inexperience with or resistance to respiratory protection in healthcare setting – capacity-building, consultation, enforcement