



## Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response

### Bureau of Healthcare and Community Readiness

## Expanding Respiratory Protection Programs for Long Term Care Facilities and other Congregate Settings in New York City

### Project Overview

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (NYC DOHMH OEPR) invites you to participate in an exciting, new opportunity to enhance NYC's preparedness for infectious diseases by expanding respiratory protection capabilities at long-term care facilities (LTCFs). **The Expanding Respiratory Protection Programs (RPPs) for LTCFs and other Congregate Settings in NYC** will be led by **TRC Environmental Corporation** contracted to provide the below services to participating facilities. Facilities who participate in this program will receive support for the development and maintenance of their respiratory protection programs and will enhance their staff's and resident's safety for communicable diseases transmission

This program is expected to be **operational from March 2023 to June 2024**.

### Program Activities

#### **Needs Assessment and RPP Training Plans**

The vendor will perform RPP needs assessments at selected LTCFs and other congregate settings volunteered to participate in this program. Based upon the needs assessments, the training will provide facility staff with essential knowledge and tools better protect themselves and their patients from infectious diseases, by helping facilities to operate safely.

#### **Respiratory Protection Program Consultations**

Upon request by a participating facility, the vendor will perform **at least one consultation per facility** about respiratory protection needs. This consultation will provide an opportunity for facilities to get expert advice on how to enhance their respiratory protections.

#### **Mobile Fit-Testing Services**

The vendor will offer mobile fit-testing services onsite to all NYC LTCFs, once a year.

#### **Fit-Testing Train-the-Trainer Sessions**

Train at least one staff member from each participating facility on how to perform qualitative fit-testing services for their facility. Staff who participate in Train-the-Trainer sessions will be given a fit-testing kit and extra supplies to allow fit-testing staff at their own facilities. Trainings will be done at locations in the 5 boroughs.

#### **Free procurement of equipment**

The program is able to procure for free up to 60 days supplies of certain brands and models of N95s respirators. Additionally, the vendor will be able to provide for free air purifiers, HEPA filter replacements, surgical masks, KN95s and COVID-19 antigen tests.

### How to Participate

Participation in the program is voluntary but full participation is encourage to enhance your respiratory protections. If you would like to offer your facility for the upcoming needs assessment or have any questions, please contact our team at [enavarro1@health.nyc.gov](mailto:enavarro1@health.nyc.gov) or [egarcia9@health.nyc.gov](mailto:egarcia9@health.nyc.gov) as soon as possible.

### Key Program Dates

Perform Needs Assessments  
March - April 2023

Online Access to RPP Training  
Available  
December 2023

Mobile Fit-Testing Service  
Begin  
From June 2023

Fit-testing Train the Trainer  
Sessions Begin  
December 5th, 2023

Free Procurement of  
Equipment Begin  
June 2023

Respiratory Protections  
Consultations Begin  
August 2023

Program Evaluation Survey  
Provided to Participating Facili-  
ties  
April 2024

Results of the Program Evalua-  
tion Shared with Facilities  
June 30, 2024

Each service is intended to  
strengthen and sustain the  
capabilities of participating  
facilities to perform infection  
prevention and control proce-  
dures for their staff.

### Project Team

**Mary Foote, MD, MPH**  
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**PhD, MPH**  
*Scientific Advisor*  
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