

What You Should Know About Animal Allergies and Respiratory Protection

In addition to using well-designed air handling and waste management systems in research areas, workers can reduce their risk of exposure to potential animal allergens by routinely following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements, washing hands frequently, and decreasing time with animals.

While respiratory protection is not required in most situations, the use of a disposable respirator mask is recommended if potential exposure to animal allergens is a concern. Learn about different forms of respiratory protection using the quick guide below.



N-95 Respirator

- Provides effective respiratory protection against animal allergens
- Seals the face and provides a filter for protection
- Protects from large droplets or splashes, sprays, or splatters



Surgical Mask

- Does not provide effective protection against animal allergens
- Does not seal the face or provide an adequate filter for small contaminants
- Protects from large droplets or splashes, sprays, or splatters

Please contact Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) at (734) 647-1143 for information on obtaining an N-95 respirator, or for questions related to the appropriate respiratory protection needed for animal allergy concerns.