

The Respiratory Protection Effectiveness Clinical Trial (ResPECT)

Aaron Eagan

Department of Veterans Affairs, Gainesville, Florida, USA

The Department of Veterans Affairs, through its Office of Public Health, and in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Johns Hopkins University, is conducting a multi-center clinical trial that aims to help answer the question of the relative effectiveness of respirators and surgical masks for the protection of healthcare personnel from influenza and other respiratory illness. The speaker will discuss the purpose, objectives and expected outcomes of ResPECT, including recent progress when possible.

- **Incidence Determination:**
 - To better understand the occupational burden of influenza (primary) and other respiratory infections (secondary) in outpatient settings that serve adult (VA and non VA settings) and pediatric patients.
- **Protective Effects:**
 - To determine the risk of becoming infected with influenza and other organism-specific viral respiratory pathogens while HCWs wear N95 respirators (2009 CDC guidelines for nH1N1) compared to medical/surgical masks (2007 CDC guidelines).
- **Behaviors and Risk:**
 - To explore relationships between exposure risk and becoming infected with influenza and other respiratory infections.

The study team has recently completed Year One of data collection, with 53 clusters of over 600 total health care workers. In addition, laboratory analysis of almost 1500 respiratory swabs is underway and preparations for the 2012/2013 respiratory disease season are ongoing.