

POF007: Wednesday 9th Nov. Main Symposium

**Applying Lessons Learned to Develop Best Practice Tools for
Respiratory Protection Programs in Healthcare.**

**Maryann D'Alessandro
Debra Novak, Anita Patel¹⁾**

**Presenter's affiliation:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory
626 Cochran's Mill Rd, Pittsburgh, PA. USA. ZIP Code: 15236
Email: Bpj5@cdc.gov**

¹⁾CDC Influenza Coordination Unit

Abstract

Since 2006, NIOSH's National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) has been executing a comprehensive research, intervention, certification, standards development, and information dissemination program to improve the effective use of personal protective equipment (PPE) used by healthcare workers.

In 2010 NPPTL began to assess the progress made since 2006, and how research had advanced since the 2009 H1N1 response. In 2011, the Institute of Medicine published a report recommending a systems approach to PPE research, building on the previous reports and taking the lessons learned from 2009H1N1 response to recommend basic science research, clinical and applied research, systems research to look at the effectiveness of PPE, and Policy/regulatory research. This systems approach requires the nation to pool resources and work together in creative ways toward solutions in all of these areas. Part of this effort, is to work with our partners to establish best approaches to improve compliance through reviewing best practices and safety cultures across industries.

As part of this effort, NPPTL recently completed the development of a series of educational documents to assist hospital managers in designing and implementing effective respiratory protection programs. NPPTL also collaborated with numerous partners to establish creative solutions to understanding methods to disseminate resources, distribute products, and innovative approaches to reaching the user community. In parallel with the development of these tools, NIOSH was actively involved in supporting the 2009H1N1 response and the recent Ebola Response.

This talk will describe lessons learned during the 2009H1N1 pandemic and the Ebola responses and the tools and efforts developed, or under development to address the issues identified. Finally, successful approaches to implementing the tools in healthcare environments will be described.