



03/27/2025

From: Lee Martinez, Environmental Health & Safety (EHS), Safety Officer
To: NMHU Cabinet, President, VPFA
Subject: University Policy on the Use of Respirators

The university is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all students, faculty, and staff. After careful evaluation and in accordance with current health and safety regulations, the NMHU Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS) has determined that respirators are not required and will not be utilized on campus as part of our standard safety protocols.

This decision is based on the following considerations:

Regulatory Compliance – The university adheres to federal, state, and local health and safety guidelines, which do not mandate the use of respirators in general campus settings.

Alternative Safety Measures – We have implemented comprehensive safety measures, including proper ventilation, enhanced cleaning protocols, and other personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary.

Health & Comfort – The use of respirators can present challenges, including restricted airflow and communication difficulties, which may not be necessary given our current risk assessment.

Availability of PPE – In situations where additional protective measures are needed, other forms of PPE, such as face masks or shields, will be provided as appropriate.

We encourage all members of the university community to continue practicing good hygiene, social distancing where applicable, and staying informed about campus health and safety policies. If at any point an employee feels that a respirator is required, please contact NMHU EHS.

For any further information or assistance, you may reach out to the Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Department by email or phone listed below:

leemartinez@nmhu.edu
Cell: 505-429-2342

Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a safe campus environment.

Sincerely,


Lee Martinez
Safety Officer
New Mexico Highlands University