

# CAROLINA FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS, INC. POLICY

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**TITLE:** OSHA-200 Respiratory Protections

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**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 29, 2026

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**SECTION:** OSHA

**REFERENCE PROCEDURE:**

OSHA-200.01 Respiratory Disease Infection Control Measures

OSHA-200.02 Respiratory Protection Plan

OSHA-200.03 TB Risk Assessment and Employee Screening

OSHA-200.04 Management of Suspected or Known Tuberculosis Cases

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**RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OF STAFF:** Chief Compliance Officer

**RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE:** Central Compliance

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**REVIEWED:**

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## **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the measures taken by Carolina Family Health Centers, Inc. (CFHC, Inc.) to protect employees from exposure to respiratory hazards.

## **II. POLICY**

CFHC, Inc. acknowledges that healthcare workers are at risk of exposure to respiratory disease. As such, CFHC, Inc. takes the following actions to mitigate the risk of respiratory hazards to its employees.

CFHC, Inc.'s staff screens patients for respiratory illness upon registration. CFHC, Inc. encourages staff and patients to follow respiratory hygiene practices when they are symptomatic for respiratory illnesses. Refer to *OSHA-200.01 Respiratory Disease Infection Control*.

CFHC, Inc. provides personal protective equipment (PPE) to staff, which includes the provision of facemasks, respirators, face shields, gowns, gloves, and goggles. Training on the use of PPE is provided annually to all staff. Refer to *OSHA-100.01 Personal Protective Equipment*.

CFHC, Inc. follows the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendation for infection control through the proper cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of medical equipment, through the cleaning of exam rooms after each patient encounter, and through the provision of hand sanitizer and handwashing stations in each clinical area. CFHC, Inc. ensures each facility's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system works efficiently and provides air filtration. Refer to *OSHA-200.01 Respiratory Disease Infection Control*.

CFHC, Inc. provides respirators to staff engaged in patient care when there is a risk of COVID-19, tuberculosis, or other airborne illness that requires a respirator to reduce exposure. Staff are trained on the use of respirators, and staff using respirators undergo a medical evaluation and are fit tested at least annually. Refer to *OSHA-200.02 Respiratory Protection Plan*.

The Chief Compliance Officer conducts an annual tuberculosis risk assessment for each of CFHC, Inc.'s medical facilities. If the location is found to be at risk, CFHC, Inc. ensures that staff are provided with appropriate personal protective equipment. New employees are provided with tuberculosis (TB) screening upon hire. Any employee with suspected or known infectious tuberculosis is excluded from work until treatment is initiated and the employee is no longer considered infectious. Refer to *OSHA 200.03 Tuberculosis Risk Assessment and Employee Screening*.

Education to staff regarding tuberculosis is provided upon hire and annually thereafter. Training includes modes of transmission, signs, and symptoms, testing, principles and practices of TB infection control, guidelines for prevention and curative tuberculosis treatment, HIV/tuberculosis risk factors, the importance of personal respiratory protection, and confidentiality requirements. Staff recognize potential signs and symptoms of tuberculosis upon patient contact and initiate immediate triage and evaluation by a health care provider. Refer to *OSHA-200.04 Management of Suspected or Known Infectious Tuberculosis Cases*.