

To ensure effective respiratory protection, employees must remain clean-shaven where the respirator seals to the face. Facial hair that touches the respirator's sealing surface or valves breaks the tight seal, increasing the risk of exposure to hazardous airborne contaminants. OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard prohibits wearing respirators if facial hair interferes with the seal or valve function, as maintaining a secure seal is critical for safety.



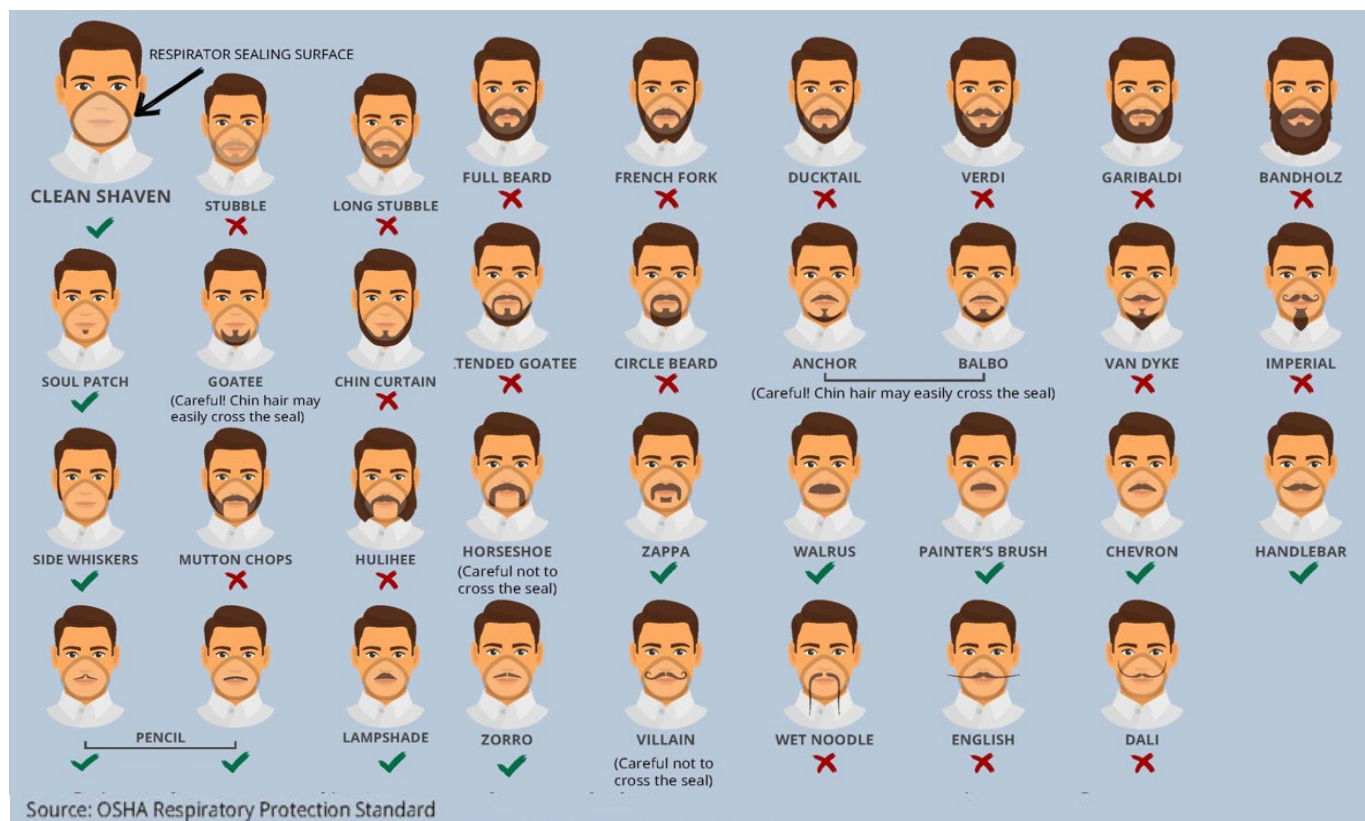
DOs

- Keep seal area clean-shaven.
- Maintain facial hair styles only if they do not interfere with respirator's seal or valve function.
- Trim mustaches outside seal zone.
- Follow all regular fit-testing requirements and be sure to retest if facial hair length or style changes.
- Get regular fit tests.



DON'Ts

- Don't wear beards, stubble, or any facial hair that lies under or passes through the area where the respirator contacts the skin
- Don't allow hair to interfere with the operation or sealing of the respirator's valves.
- Don't shave only on test days.
- Never use respirators if seal is broken by hair.



Following these guidelines ensures compliance with Caltech, OSHA, NIOSH, and CDC requirements for respiratory protection and on and proper fit.

**NEED FURTHER
GUIDANCE?**

Call 626-395-6727, email safety@caltech.edu,
or visit www.safety.caltech.edu for help
concerning the proper selection of syringes.

