



# Tips for Agricultural Pesticide Applicators Operating Safely During COVID-19

Due to increased demand brought on by COVID-19, agricultural pesticide applicators may be unable to get personal protective equipment (PPE) for the growing season. This is especially true for respirators, particularly N95 masks. For pesticide applicators that use full or half-face respirators, it may be difficult to obtain particulate filters. Review the information below to help you determine your PPE needs for crop production this season.

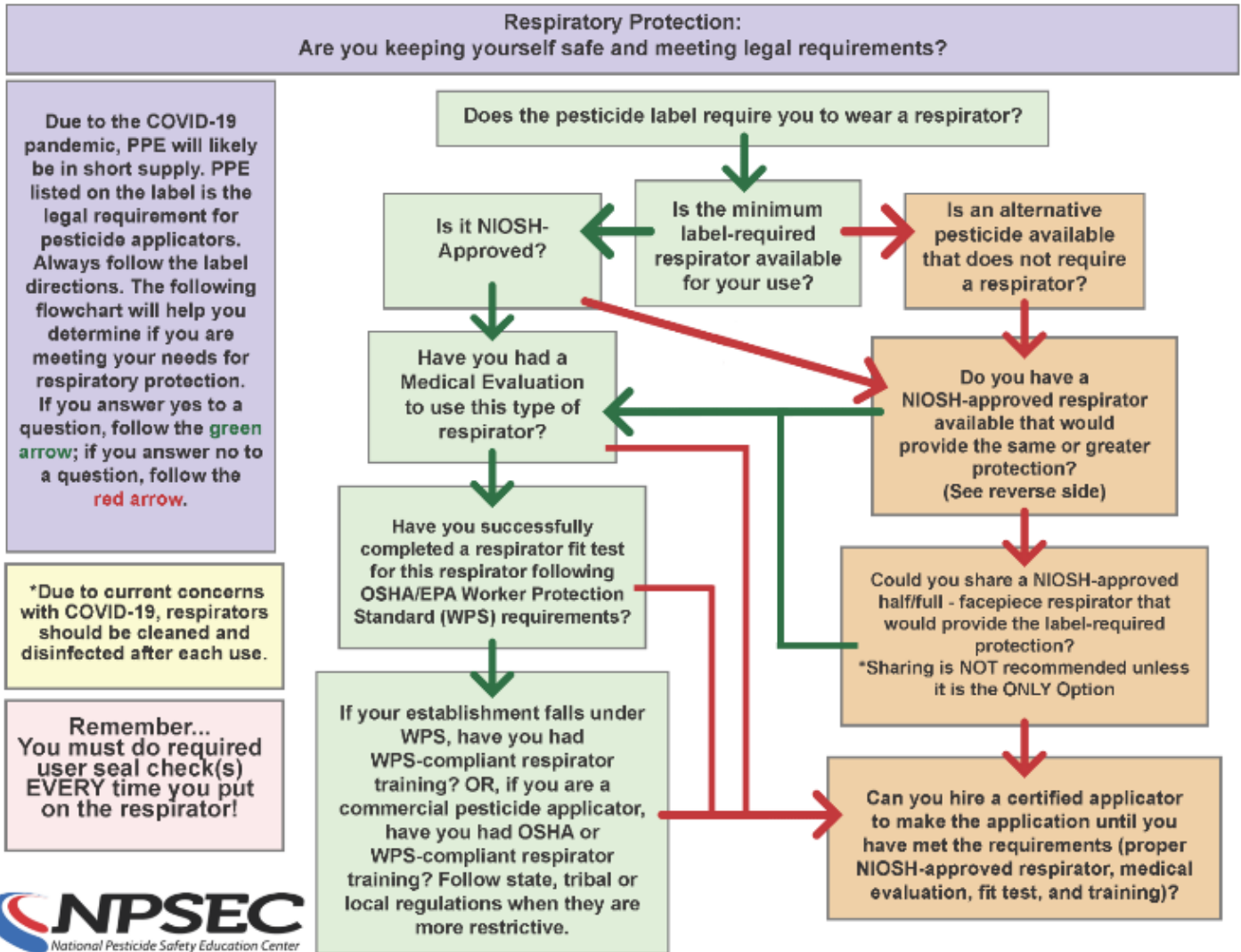


Diagram also available in Spanish at <https://npsec.us/wp-content/uploads/200513-1-SPANISH-Respirator-Infographic.pdf>.

## How to Determine Your Need for Respiratory Protection

The National Pesticide Safety Education Center (NPSEC) created this decision tree to help applicators determine their need for respiratory protection. If you answer yes to a question, follow the green arrow; if you answer no to a question, follow the red arrow.

Additional respirator information is available on the NPSEC respirator page at <https://npsec.us/respirators>.

You can also find information on substitutes for certain

respirator models at <https://npsec.us/wp-content/uploads/200420-2-Respirator-Infographic.pdf>.

## Review Product Labels and Requirements

Know what PPE is required for the pesticides you use.

- You may not apply pesticides without the PPE required by the product label.
- Homemade masks are not sufficient substitutes for label-required respirators and masks.



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- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not relaxed or made exemptions to PPE requirements.

You may need to use alternative products or practices if required PPE is not available. Some options are:

- Choose different pesticides that do not require a respirator.
- Use a more protective respirator.
- Consider integrated pest management to identify non-chemical methods such as changing pest habitats, adding barriers, etc.

## Identify Alternative Pesticides and Practices

Use the following resources to find a different pesticide that does not require a respirator:

**CDMS Label Database:** <http://www.cdms.net/Label-Database>

The Crop Data Management Systems (CDMS) works with key pesticide registrants, hosting their current labels and Safety Data Sheets online.

**PICOL:** <https://picol.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Home/Index>

The Pesticide Information Center Online (PICOL) can find products by crop and pesticide type, and filter by target pest to seek out alternatives and view current approved labels.

**Agrian:** <https://home.agrian.com/>

Agrian works with manufacturers to compile product labels and other supporting documents. Product information includes a safety tab that provides required PPE without having to search the full label.

**USDA Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Database:** <https://ipmdata.ipmcenters.org/>

This database includes documents covering common pests by crop and a variety of pest management options.

**NPIC's Product Research Online:**

<http://npic.orst.edu/NPRO>

The National Pesticide Information Center search engine allows applicators to look for federally-registered pesticides by crop, by pest or weed, and you can read labels online.

*Source: American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators or AAPSE <https://aapse.wildapricot.org/COVID-19PPE/>*