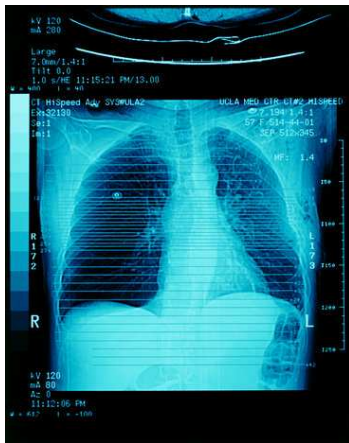


WORKING TO BE A

# Respiratory Therapist



## What type of education is needed to be a respiratory therapist?

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Complete a state-approved radiography training program
- Formal programs are from one to four years and lead to a certificate, Associate's degree, or Bachelor's degree

## What licenses or certifications are needed to be a respiratory therapist?

- Licensing by the state is required

## What is the work environment like for a respiratory therapist?

- Work in modern, well-equipped medical facilities that are well lit and well ventilated
- Usually work in hospitals, nursing homes, doctors' offices, home health agencies, medical equipment supply companies or patient homes
- Spend long periods standing and walking and can be under a lot of stress
- Trained to work with gases that can be hazardous and are at risk from infection, but proper precautions lessen the risk
- Usually work 40 hour weeks, can be night shifts as well as holidays and weekends

## What does a respiratory therapist do?

- Assess and treat patients with breathing or other related disorders
- Work under the direction of doctors and follow their instructions for patient care
- Treat all types of patients from infants to elderly people
- Help with temporary relief for people with chronic issues as well as emergency care to those suffering from heart attacks, strokes, drowning, or shock
- Operate respirators, masks, incubators, positive breathing machines, and other equipment that give respiratory assistance to patients

## What is the normal pay range for a respiratory therapist?

- \$16.98–\$26.27 per hour

## What Source partners offer training to be a respiratory therapist?

- University of Toledo

## The Source

1301 Monroe Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
Phone: 419-213-JOBS

*Your Source for information to overcome life's barriers and be successful!*

## How can a respiratory therapist grow in their field?

- Respiratory therapist supervisor
- Respiratory therapist instructor
- Registered nurse