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| OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP BULLETIN | NO. 2026-21 |
| | DATE January 21, 2026 |

TO: NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS
OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP STAFF
STATE APPRENTICESHIP AGENCIES

FROM: MEGAN BAIRD /s/
Acting Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship

SUBJECT: New Apprenticeable Occupation: Respiratory Therapists

1. **Purpose.** To inform the staff of OA, State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAA), Registered Apprenticeship program sponsors, and other Registered Apprenticeship partners of the following new apprenticeable occupation: Respiratory Therapists
2. **Action Requested.** OA staff should familiarize themselves with this bulletin and the attached Work Process Schedule and Related Instruction Outline, as a source for developing apprenticeship standards and/or providing technical assistance.

Respiratory Therapist will be added to the List of Occupations Recognized as Apprenticeable by OA located on www.apprenticeship.gov. A suggested Work Process Schedule and Related Instruction Outline are attached.

3. **Summary and Background.**

- a. Summary – The occupation Respiratory Therapists was submitted by Janis Karazim, Ed.D., R.T. (R) (M) on behalf of Workforce Intelligence Network, was processed by Dr. Ricky Godbolt and approved by the OA Acting Administrator on January 16, 2026.
- b. Background –

New/Revised Occupation Background - Under 29 CFR section 29.4, an occupation for a RAP must meet the following criteria to be determined apprenticeable:

- a) Involve skills that are customarily learned in a practical way through a structured, systematic program of on-the job supervised learning;
- b) Be clearly identified and commonly recognized throughout an industry;
- c) Involve the progressive attainment of manual, mechanical, or technical skills and knowledge which, in accordance with the industry standard for the occupation, would require the completion of at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job learning to attain; and
- d) Require related instruction to supplement the on-the job learning.

4. **New Apprenticeable Occupation.** The occupation Respiratory Therapists was submitted for an apprenticeability determination.

Respiratory Therapist

O*NET-SOC CODE: 29-1126.00

RAPIDS CODE: 4025CB

Type of Training: Competency-Based

Respiratory Therapists perform the following duties:

Assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. Assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care modalities, including the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians. Initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures; maintain patient records; and select, assemble, check, and operate equipment.

Inquiries. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Ricky Godbolt, National Office of Apprenticeship at godbolt.ricky.c@dol.gov.

5. **Attachments.**



RespiratoryTherapist