

# OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE

MAY 2013 NEWSLETTER



## Anoka Clinic Update

Construction has progressed smoothly on our new RiverWay Anoka Clinic. It's located off Highway 10 next to Greenhaven Golf Course on the former Castle Field baseball complex. It's conveniently located and easy to access. The 60,000 square foot facility is scheduled to open on September 16, 2013.

This clinic will be our fourth full time, full service Occupational Medicine clinic. As with St. Louis Park, Minneapolis and St. Paul, we'll offer:

- Preplacement physicals
- DOT Exams
- Drug/alcohol screening
- Hearing testing
- Respirator Exams/fit-testing
- Medical monitoring exams
- Fitness for duty exams
- Work injury care, including urgent care after-hours and weekends.

We plan on holding an open house to celebrate the opening, on September 12. More information and detail will follow as we approach the date.

## Respirator-Use Physicals and Fit-Testing; What Does OSHA Require?

We're frequently asked questions from employers about their obligations for respirator use, training and fit-testing. Below is a brief overview of these topics.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Respiratory protection standard, 29 CFR 1910.134, states that "In the control of those occupational diseases caused by breathing air contaminated with harmful dusts, fogs, fumes, mists, gases, smokes, sprays, or vapors, the primary objective shall be to prevent atmospheric contamination. This shall be accomplished as far as feasible by accepted engineering control measures. When effective engineering controls are not feasible, or while they are being instituted, appropriate respirators shall be used. A respirator shall be provided to each employee when such equipment is necessary to protect the health of such employee. The employer shall provide the respirators which are applicable and suitable for the purpose intended. The employer shall be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a respiratory protection program".

When respirators are used in the workplace, the employer is required to implement a written respiratory protection program. The program should include procedures for selecting respirators for use in the workplace; medical evaluations of employees required to use respirators; fit testing procedures for tight-fitting respirators; procedures and schedules for cleaning, disinfecting, storing, inspecting, repairing, discarding, and otherwise maintaining respirators; training of employees in the proper use of respirators, including putting on and removing them. The employer shall provide respirators, training, and medical evaluations at no cost to the employee.

OSHA requires that a physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP) evaluate whether it is physiologically safe for an employee to use a respirator. This needs to happen at least once and more often if the job or employee's health situation changes. Many employers have their respirator-wearers cleared annually. Our Occupational Medicine clinics perform these medical evaluations, and we also have our worksite services team which provides them in the workplace. *This clearance requirement is frequently confused with fit-testing, which it is not.*

OSHA requires that an employee be fit-tested with the same make, model, style, and size of respirator that will be used in the workplace, *annually*. The employee is fit-tested prior to initial use of the respirator, whenever a different respirator face piece is used, and at least annually thereafter. The fit testing can be qualitative (pass or fail) or quantitative (a numerical measurement of how well the respirator fits and how much leakage may occur). To ensure a tight seal, facial hair, eyewear, personal protective equipment etc. that can come between the sealing surface of the face piece and the face is not allowed.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance to your organization with it's OSHA-related obligations.

[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_id=12716&p\\_table=standards](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=12716&p_table=standards)

## We Can Help With Foreign Travel Exams

Travel is an accepted and common part of American business today. Employees from many diverse parts of the organization may be asked to travel, with trips ranging from an occasional one week visit to multi-year expatriate arrangements. All travel entails some risk, but forward-looking companies treat this like any other - one that can be identified, managed and minimized. A common misconception is that North American or western European travel is risk-free since these areas tend to be free of malaria and other serious diseases. What's ignored is the risk the traveler faces based on their underlying diagnosed, or more importantly, undiagnosed health conditions.

Surveys typically indicate that a large percentage of overseas business travelers do not see a physician in advance of their travels. An alarming number of travelers to malaria-endemic regions don't take malaria prevention medications. To help address this unmanaged risk, HealthPartners Occupational Medicine will facilitate access to our two full-service Travel Medicine Clinics - West Clinic (St Louis Park) and the Specialty Center (St. Paul). Both stand ready to assist with immunizations, including Yellow Fever, as well as medical counseling, prescriptions and MD clearance exams. Appointments are easy to set and billing will be sent to the company contact you designate.

Please contact Kirk Hyatt with any question you may have on our Travel Medicine program.

## Occupational Medicine & Urgent Care Clinic Locations

### HealthPartners Riverside Clinic

2220 Riverside Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55454  
**952-883-6999** Opt. 1

### HealthPartners St. Paul Clinic

205 S. Wabasha St.  
St. Paul, MN 55107  
**952-883-6999** Opt. 2

### HealthPartners West Clinic

5100 Gamble Drive  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
**952-883-6999** Opt. 3

### HealthPartners Arden Hills Clinic

3930 Northwoods Dr  
Arden Hills, MN 55112  
**952-883-6999** Opt. 4

### RiverWay Anoka Clinic

Part of the HealthPartners Family of Care  
601 Jacob Lane  
Anoka, MN 55303  
**Opening Sept. 16, 2013**



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