



# Explore a Career as a **RESPIRATORY THERAPY TECHNICIAN**

## **What do Respiratory Therapy Technicians do?**

A respiratory therapy technician is an entry-level professional in the field of respiratory medicine. A respiratory tech works under the supervision of a respiratory therapist to care for people with illnesses including pneumonia, asthma, and chronic bronchitis. Once a medical protocol has been established, the respiratory technician works closely with a patient to ensure treatments are being received correctly, keeps a record of the patient's therapy, and assesses the patient's response to treatment. Respiratory technicians work under the supervision of therapists and other medical professionals to treat patients with respiratory disorders and diseases.

## **Training & Educational Opportunities**

Respiratory therapy technicians usually need an associate degree with certification. Many choose to continue their education and seek further licensing in order to advance their career in respiratory medicine. Courses commonly included in an associate degree program include respiratory care fundamentals, pharmacology, and physiology.

## **As a Respiratory Therapy Technician you will:**

- Assess patient's response to treatments and modify treatments according to protocol
- Collect and analyze arterial blood gas samples
- Maintain accurate records of patient's therapy
- Monitor patients during treatment and report unusual reactions to respiratory therapist
- Read and evaluate physicians' orders and patients' chart information to determine patients' condition and treatment protocols
- Use ventilators or various oxygen devices and breathing treatments

## **Respiratory Therapy Technicians are in demand in Livingston County!**

Livingston County employment of respiratory therapy technicians is expected to increase through 2020. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects this occupation to continue to grow.

# Respiratory Therapy Technician

## Training Providers

The following certified training provider offers programs and certifications to train for a career as a respiratory therapy technician:

- Parkland College

Career scholarships may be available if you qualify.



## Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire respiratory therapists in Livingston County, including:

- Acute care hospitals
- Diagnostic laboratories
- Doctor offices
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Sleep disorder centers
- Wellness centers

## Wages & Openings

### Respiratory Therapy Technician Employment Data for Livingston County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$22.67
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$35.37
Average Annual Job Openings Livingston County	~10
Annual Job Openings Bloomington Peoria Region	20

## Opportunities

After earning your degree as a respiratory therapy technician, you will have many opportunities for advancement and specialization. Some opportunities include:

- Adult Critical Care Coordinator
- Coordinator of Clinical Education
- Neonatal Care Tech
- Pediatric Pulmonary Nurse
- Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist
- Respiratory Product Representative



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