



Respiratory Therapist & Respiratory Therapy Technician

As directed by a physician, **respiratory therapists** (RT) evaluate cardiopulmonary (heart and lungs) health and treat respiratory conditions, such as pneumonia and asthma. A **respiratory therapy technician** (RTT) provides the same services under the supervision of a physician or RT. Examples of services:

- set up and monitor therapies and environmental controls
- insert and maintain an artificial airway
- cardiopulmonary rehabilitation
- start & support equipment that helps people to breathe
- administer medications needed for respiratory care
- educate patients and families

Education

Respiratory Therapist: An associate or a bachelor’s degree in respiratory therapy. RT education programs in New York must be approved by the State Education Department.

Respiratory Therapy Technician: A one-year certificate program in respiratory therapy technology. RTT education programs in New York State must be approved by the State Education Department.

Examination

Respiratory Therapist: National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) Certified Respiratory Therapist examination and the Registry Examination. **Respiratory Therapy Technician:** NBRC Certified Respiratory Therapist examination

Video



Salary and Projected Growth

- RT salary range: \$60,140-\$84,230
- RTT salary range: \$42,680-\$67,550
- Projected growth: RT-faster than average; RTT-below average

Where Could I Work?

- Hospitals (often in critical care and other inpatient units)
- Pulmonary rehabilitation clinics
- Home health care

Your Interests and Abilities

- Biology, chemistry, and medical technology
- Supervised clinical education

Professional Skills

- Concern for others
- Cooperation
- Communication
- Attention to detail

What Interests You?

Match your interests and personality to career options! Explore a free career tool at mynextmove.org/explore/ip

Tip: try searching for mentoring programs—talk to a respiratory therapist about what they do and how they got started!

- ▶ Visit the Office of the Professions for a listing of all options and requirements.