

WHAT IS A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST?



**College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario**

**Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario**

180 Dundas Street West, Suite 2103 Toronto Ontario, Canada M5G 1Z8

Tel: 416-591-7800 Toll-Free: 1-800-261-0528 Fax: 416-591-7890

Twitter: @theCRTO www.crto.on.ca

Respiratory Therapists are
health care professionals who
monitor/assess and **treat**
individuals who have
difficulty breathing.



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Respiratory Therapists are regulated health care professionals, meaning they must become Members of the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario in order to work in the field.



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Respiratory Therapists are an integral part of the Canadian health care system and are highly trained in areas such as:



ventilation and
airway management



cardiopulmonary
resuscitation (CPR)



oxygen and
aerosol therapy



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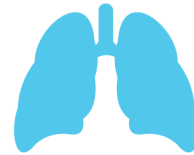
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They care for patients during:



cardiac stress-testing



pulmonary function testing



cardiorespiratory
disease prevention such as
smoking cessation



high risk births



rehabilitation



surgery



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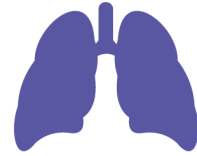
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They treat patients with health issues such as:



asthma



bronchitis



chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)



emphysema



heart disease



pneumonia



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Patients frequently receive care from Respiratory Therapists (RTs) in a hospital setting. RTs also apply their expertise in areas of home care, family health teams, patient and student education, research, and medical equipment sales. Respiratory Therapists care for adults, children and newborns.



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How can I become a Respiratory Therapist?



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Respiratory Therapists are graduates of a three-year diploma or four-year joint diploma/degree program. These approved programs are offered at colleges and universities that work with teaching hospitals and other health care organizations.



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In order to work in Ontario, Respiratory Therapists must be Members of the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario. As a Member you will have ongoing professional development requirements that help to maintain high standards for patient care.



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Want to learn more about this profession?
Go to: [http://www.crto.on.ca/public/
what-is-respiratory-therapy/](http://www.crto.on.ca/public/what-is-respiratory-therapy/)
and watch our Respiratory Therapy video.



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