



# Respiratory Therapist

# Career Paths

High School Diploma / GED

+

Associate's Degree  
in Respiratory Care

OR

+

Bachelor's Degree  
in Respiratory Care



Registered Respiratory Therapist



Licensure / Certification Exam Required:  
TMC Exam → RRT Credential



Career Growth Opportunities

Critical Care  
Respiratory Therapist

Neonatal or Pediatric  
Respiratory Therapist

Pulmonary Rehabilitation  
Specialist

Respiratory Therapy  
Supervisor\*

Clinical Educator\*

Advanced Practice  
Provider\*

\*Additional Education Required



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# Respiratory Therapist

Supporting every breath.

## → Career Overview

Respiratory therapists evaluate and treat patients with breathing and cardiopulmonary disorders. They care for patients of all ages and play a vital role in emergency care, intensive care units and long-term disease management. Respiratory therapists often work in fast-paced hospital environments where quick decision making and problem solving are critical.

## → Where They Work

Respiratory therapists work in hospitals, intensive care units, emergency departments and outpatient clinics. They may also support neonatal units, rehabilitation programs and home health settings.

## → Career Growth

With experience and additional training, respiratory therapists can specialize in critical care, neonatal care or pulmonary rehabilitation and advance into leadership or education roles.

## SALARY SNAPSHOT



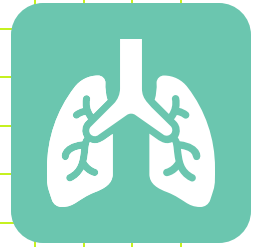
**\$64,049**  
10%

**\$80,182**  
Median

**\$97,178**  
90%

Source: JobsEQ, May 2024 | Salary ranges represent regional averages and may vary based on experience, certification level and employer.

**IN-DEMAND NOW**



## You'll love this job if you:

- Stay calm under pressure
- Enjoy hands-on patient care
- Like fast-paced environments
- Want to make an immediate impact



## Skills That Matter

- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Attention to detail
- Comfort with medical technology

**EXPLORE**

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