



HCHS/SOL Question by Question Instructions Respiratory Form (RSE/RSS), Version A

General Instructions

This section of the interview assesses respiratory conditions and diseases. A short respiratory family history questionnaire is also administered.

First administer the following script to the participant: “The following questions are about respiratory or chest symptoms. If you are in doubt whether the answer is yes or no, answer no.”

Question By Question Instructions

- Q1. Question asks the participant to indicate if they have had a cough on most days of the week during the past 12 months for at least 3 months in a row. Inform the participant that “most” means at least 4 days or nights per week.
- Q2. Question assesses whether the participant had a cough when awakening in the morning on most mornings during the past 12 months for at least 3 months in a row. Participants who respond yes to either or both Q1 and Q2 are administered Q3.
- Q3. Question asks how many years they have had this cough. Do not leave the boxes empty. For example, if they report nine years record “09” for years in the boxes provided.
- Q4. Question asks the participant to indicate if they have brought up phlegm from their chest on most days of the week during the past 3 months in a row. Remind the participant that “most” means at least 4 days or nights per week.
- Q5. Question assesses whether the participant had brought up phlegm when awakening in the morning on most mornings for at least three months in a row. Participants who respond yes to either or both Q4 and Q5 are administered Q6.
- Q6. Question asks how many years they have had trouble with phlegm.
- Q7. Question asks if the participant has ever had wheezing or whistling in their chest. Participants who respond no are skipped to Q18.
- Q8. Question asks the participant to estimate the age at which they first had wheezing or whistling in their chest.
- Q9. Question asks if the participant has ever had an attack of wheezing or whistling in their chest which made them short of breath. Participants indicating yes are administered questions #10-12.
- Q10. Question asks the participant to estimate their age when they had such an attack. Record “1” in the boxes provided if they indicate they were less than one year old.

- Q11. Question asks if the participant has had 2 or more such attacks.
- Q12. Question asks if they have ever required medicine or treatment for such attacks.
- Q13. Question asks if they have had, in the past 12 months, any wheezing or whistling in their chest.
- Q14-17. Use the same question stem: “In the last 12 months, does your chest every sound wheezy or whistling..”. You should repeat the question stem for each item.
- Q18. Question asks the participant if they have been awakened at night by coughing, shortness of breath or a feeling of tightness in your chest in the past 12 months. The participant should be instructed to exclude any cough associated with colds or chest infections.
- Q19. This is in two parts, with both questions using the same stem: “When you are near animals or near feathers or in a dusty or moldy part of the house do you ever...” Q19a asks if the participant responds to the exposure by experiencing wheezing, shortness of breath or chest tightness; Q19b asks if the participant experiences a runny nose, itchy watering eyes or starts to sneeze. The question stem should be repeated for both questions.
- Q20. This is in two parts, with both questions using the same stem: “When you are near trees, grass, or flowers, or when there is a lot of pollen in the air, do you ever...”. Q20a and b are identical to Q19a and b above. Repeat the question stem for both questions.
- Q21. Question asks if the participant has ever had allergen skin testing. This type of testing usually involves placing a small amount of suspected allergy causing substances just below the surface of the skin (typically arm or back) and then looking for signs of swelling or redness.
- Q22. Question asks the participant if they have chronic sinusitis. Chronic sinusitis is an inflammation of the nasal passages which can cause nasal congestion with green or yellow discharge, facial pain, headache and fever. This condition has to occur on multiple occasions for it to be considered chronic in nature. In this case, chronic is defined as having the condition for 12 weeks or more).
- Q23. Question asks about asthma symptoms such as coughing and wheezing when the participant exercises, exerts themselves or when the air is cold.
- Q24. Question asks about being troubled by shortness of breath when hurrying on level ground or up a slight hill. Those who respond yes are administered Q25-28.
- Q25-28. These questions ask more detailed questions about exercise-induced asthma symptoms in a yes/no format. A “does not apply” box is also provided as a response option. Check this box when the participant indicates that they do not engage in the physical activity (e.g., walking for 100 yards). If a participant is not accustomed to the English measurement system, interviewer can say the equivalent of 100 yards in meters, i.e. approximately 90 meters.
- Q29. Question asks the participant to estimate in the previous 12 months how many days of school or work missed because of respiratory illnesses and symptoms. In this case respiratory illness and

symptoms are broadly defined; the participant should consider illnesses such as colds and symptoms such as shortness of breath. Check the box which captures the participants estimate; for example check the 1-5 box if the participant reports 4 missed days or school or work in the past 12 months. Check the “Not Applicable” box if the participant indicates that they neither work nor are they attending school. Skip the participant to Q32 if you check the “Not Applicable” box.

- Q30. Question assesses respiratory symptom changes on weekends, vacations and other times when away from their job. If the participant has more than one job then they should base their answer on the workplace they spend the most time at. This is a somewhat complicated question which you may need to repeat to the participant if they are having trouble understanding.
- Q31. Participants who answered yes to Q30 are asked in if their respiratory symptoms get better or worse when they are away from their current job.
- Q32. Question asks if the participant ever had asthma. This does not have to be doctor-diagnosed. Participants who indicate no or respond that they don't know are skipped to Q38.
- Q33. Participants who answered yes to ever having asthma are asked to estimate their age when they started to have asthma. Record “1” in the boxes provided if they indicate they were less than one year old. If they are unable to estimate how old they were ask the participant if the asthma started in childhood. If yes, check box for item Q33a.
- Q34. Question asks if the asthma was diagnosed by a doctor or other health professional
- Q35. Question asks if they still have asthma. Those responding yes to this question are skipped to Q37.
- Q36. Age asthma stopped is considered to be the age the participant was the last time symptoms/attacks of asthma occurred. Those responding no or don't know are asked to indicate at what age their asthma stopped. Record “1” in the boxes provided if they indicate they were less than one year old when their asthma stopped.
- Q37. Question asks if the participant has received medical treatment, taken medications, or used an inhaler to treat their asthma.
- Q38. Question asks if the participant has ever had hay fever, which is defined as an allergy involving the nose and/or eyes. Although the symptoms can be similar to chronic sinusitis, hay fever is different in that it is often seasonal since it is caused by the presence of pollen in the air. Participants indicating yes are administered Q39.
- Q39. Question asks if the participant has, in the past 12 months, received medical treatment, taken medications or used a nasal spray for their hay fever.
- Q40. Question asks if the participant has ever been told by a doctor that they had pneumonia. This respiratory illness occurs when the microscopic air filled sacs in the lungs become inflamed and filled with fluid making breathing difficult.

- Q41. Participants who report a history of pneumonia are asked to estimate the age at which they first had pneumonia. Record “1” in the boxes provided if they indicate they were less than one year old. If they are unable to estimate how old they were, ask the participant if their first episode of pneumonia started in childhood. If yes, check box for Q41a.
- Q42. Question asks if the participant has ever been told by a doctor that he/she has had chronic bronchitis. This respiratory illness occurs due to inflammation of the medium-sized airways of the lungs. Symptoms include cough (sometimes with bloody mucus), wheezing, shortness of breath and frequent respiratory conditions. Exposure to tobacco smoke is a major cause.
- Q43. Participants who report of chronic bronchitis history are asked to estimate the age at which they first came down with this condition. Record “1” in the boxes provided if they indicate they were less than one year old. If they are unable to estimate how old they were ask the participant if their first episode of chronic bronchitis started in childhood. If yes, check box for item Q43a.
- Q44. Question asks if the participant has ever been told by a doctor that they have COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) or emphysema. This condition is sometimes known as chronic obstructive airways disease. COPD is different from asthma in that the airway inflammation responsible for producing shortness of breath is chronic in nature (i.e., not reversible).
- Q45. Those answering yes are asked to estimate at what age they were first diagnosed. Record “1” in the boxes provided if they indicate they were less than one year old.
- Q46. Question asks if in the past 12 months the participant has received medical treatment, taken medications, or used an inhaler to treat their COPD or emphysema.
- Q47-49. Questions assess family history of respiratory disease, including asthma, chronic bronchitis, COPD/emphysema and hay fever in parents, brothers and sisters. These questions do not apply to half brothers and half sisters. For each question check the no box if they respond that they are uncertain of a family history for each respiratory condition. If they report a family history of respiratory disease in at least one brother or sister then check the “yes” box for sibling(s).
- Q50-55. Questions ask about history of tuberculosis, as well as testing and treatment history. Formerly called consumption, this disease is caused by bacterial infection and can cause severe cough, fever, and the production of bloody sputum. A skin test can determine is a person has ever been exposed to the bacterium which causes the disease. However, most people exposed to TB never develop active disease.
- Q50. Question asks if the participant has ever been told that they have active tuberculosis. Those who respond “no” are skipped to Q52. Participants who respond “yes”, refused to answer, or responded they were not sure are administered Q51.
- Q51. Question asks if they were ever prescribed any medication to treat active TB.
- Q52. Question asks if the participant has ever been administered a TB test (PPD). A purified protein derivative (PPD) test involves the injection of TB bacterial proteins just under the skin (typically the arm). If a person has been exposed to TB the skin around the injection site will swell slightly. The arm is re-examined 48-72 hours after injection to determine if the skin test if positive

- Q53. Participants who respond yes to Q52 are administered this question to determine if the test was positive. Check the “positive” box if they report that they have ever had a positive skin test. Those who report a negative test or report that they don’t know are skipped to Q55.
- Q54. Question asks if the participant was prescribed any medication to keep from getting sick from TB. Antibiotics are typically used in the treatment of TB.
- Q55. Question asks if the participant ever had a shot (or vaccination) to prevent TB called BCG. This shot is not to be confused with the PPD which is used to determine if a person has been exposed to TB. The BCG (Bacille Calmette-Guérin) vaccine is designed to prevent TB infection and is typically administered by injection in childhood. While in wide use in other countries, the BCG has never been routinely used in the US.
- Q56. Question asks the participant if there has been any flooding or water damage in their home during the last 12 months.
- Q57. Question asks if, in the past 12 months, there have been any mold or mildew on any surface in the home (excluding food). These questions are designed to capture the presence of mold which is associated with an increased risk of respiratory symptoms in susceptible individuals.