

N95 Respirator Fit Testing for Students and Instructors ⁽¹⁾ during the COVID-19 Pandemic

It is recommended that students completing a clinical placement with Alberta Health Services (AHS) be fit tested for an N95 respirator. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, some post-secondary institutions have been unable to provide N95 respirator fit testing due to global shortages of respirators. AHS Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) staff or a Fit Test Designate will offer students the opportunity to be fit tested at one of the drop-in sessions.

Students can find the fit testing clinic schedule and locations on [WHS' Respiratory Protection Insite page](#). Students will receive a fit test card indicating the make and model of the respirator, and the expiry date of the fit test.

The N95 respirator is the standard level of respiratory protection against infectious agents transmitted by the airborne route. Examples include: Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB), Rubeola (red measles), Disseminated Shingles Virus, Varicella Virus (chicken pox).

Students that care for clients that have a droplet transmission communicable disease will typically require the protection of a procedure mask. However, the protection of an N95 respirator will be required if aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) are performed on patients with a pre-existing or suspected respiratory disease. Examples include: COVID-19, influenza-like illness (ILI) or confirmed infection with Influenza A or B, Avian Influenza, other emerging/novel respiratory pathogens, or suspected/confirmed Viral Hemorrhagic Fever.

The following N95 respirator models are available at AHS's facilities:

- 3M 8210 (cuplike, regular)
- 3M 8110s (cuplike, size small)
- 3M 1804 (v-flex)
- Dasheng DTC3Z (flat fold)

A list of AGMPs is available [here](#)

(1) Instructors will be fit tested as required.

For further information contact: student.placements@ahs.ca