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

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, some post-secondary institutions (PSI) may not be able to provide N95 respirator fit testing services to their students and instructors.

PSIs can now purchase N95 respirators from Alberta Health Services (AHS) so that students can be fit tested before starting their clinical placement. This temporary measure will be in place until PSIs are able to resume normal operations and source respirators from their suppliers and fit test their students. PSIs can set up an account and purchase N95 respirators by contacting the AHS Contracting, Procurement and Supply Management office at CPSMOperations.EOC@albertahealthservices.ca.

AHS will continue to provide fit testing services until October 31, 2020. Students* can be fit tested at an AHS Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) fit test clinic or by a site fit test designate. By November 1, 2020, PSIs will then be responsible for fit testing their students.

*Note: Only those students who require the protection of an N95 respirator will be fit tested. The student’s program coordinator or instructor should determine whether the protection of an N95 respirator will be required during the student’s placement in AHS and inform the student.

Circumstances where the protection of an N95 respirator is required:

- if aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs)(2) are performed on patients with a pre-existing or suspected respiratory disease (e.g., 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).

- providing care for patients that may have infectious diseases transmitted by the airborne route (e.g., Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB), Rubeola (red measles), Varicella Virus (chickenpox), Disseminated Shingles Virus).

Students can access the WHS fit test clinic schedule or can connect with a site fit test designate once the student placement begins at AHS. At that time, students can use their login credentials to access AHS’ intranet (Respiratory Protection Insite page).

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. If you require further information contact: student.placements@ahs.ca.

(1) Instructors will be fit tested as required
(2) A list of AGMPs is available here