

<b>To:</b>	Post-Secondary Institutions' Health Programs
<b>From:</b>	Health Authority Practice Education Committee (HAPEC), in partnership with the Provincial Respiratory Protection Working Group
<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide an update to partners on requirements for respirator fit testing for students
<b>Date:</b>	July 4, 2024

## Purpose

This memo summarizes the most up to date information around N95 fit-testing, including responsibilities of fit-testing by Post-Secondary Institutions (PSIs), annual fit-testing for applicable students, as well as the specific N95 respirator models in use in BC Health Authorities.

## Fit Testing Requirements

- As outlined in the [Practice Education Guidelines for BC Respiratory Protection](#) N95 respirator fit testing (and annual re-testing) is a requirement of *WorkSafeBC's* Occupational Health and Safety Regulation for anyone requiring the use of respiratory protection in the workplace.
- Health Care Organization (HCO) staff, students, and clinical instructors providing direct care or coming into close contact with a patient with a known or suspected airborne spread illness or assisting in aerosol generating procedures require the use of a respirator.
- Fit tests are valid for **one year**.

## HCO Standard Respirator Models

- 3M 1870+
- 3M 1860 / 3M 1860S
- CAN99 from Vitacore

Note: If a student cannot be fit tested to any of the standard respirator models, please reach out to local HCO for options. Fit testing is specific to the individual and the model of respirator.

## Actions

- Ensure students have a current fit test (**within past year**) to one of the above listed standard N95 models if they will be providing care or coming into close contact with a patient with a known or suspected airborne spread illness or assisting in aerosol generating procedures.

- Ensure students carry proof of fit testing on their person at all times during the placement experience, which includes the following information:
  - Student or PSI educator name
  - Post Secondary Institution name
  - Fit test date
  - Brand, model and size of respirator successfully fit tested
  - Fit-testers name
- As required, order N95 supplies for fit testing from your local vendors as outlined in the Practice Education Guidelines.

## Questions?

For feedback or queries, please contact your [Health Organization Student Practice Education](#) contacts, or [studenteducation@phsa.ca](mailto:studenteducation@phsa.ca).