

To:	Post-Secondary Institutions' Health Programs
From:	Health Authority Practice Education Committee (HAPEC), in partnership with the Provincial PPE/N95 Sub-Working Group
Purpose:	To provide an update to partners on requirements for respirator fit-testing for students
Date:	December 6, 2021

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**.

Respirators to be utilized

With the reintroduction of 3M 1870+ respirators across BC, Health Authorities are transitioning to utilizing the following **standard models of N95 respirators** (listed in order of preference):

1. 3M 1870+
2. 3M 8210
3. 3M 1860 / 3M 1860S
4. Halyard 46727 (IH, NH, VCH and VIHA only)
5. CAN99 from Vitacore

Note: 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.