

EHS Respirator Fit-Testing Procedures during COVID-19

Last Updated: January 19, 2022

1. EHS follows all applicable hygiene practices such as frequent hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, and wearing of medical masks and disposable gloves. Tabletops and fit-test equipment will be wiped down with disinfecting wipes before the session and between each fit-test participant. Only the fit-tester and the employee/student being tested will be allowed in the room at one time. Fit-tester will wash hands before the session and will wear disposable nitrile gloves when handling any fit-test equipment and respirators. The fit-tester will advise the employee/student to sanitize their hands using the bottle of hand sanitizer provided.
2. Employee/students are advised to use their own pens when completing any documents. If the participant does not have a pen, the fit-tester will provide a pen to the participant after cleaning the pen with a disinfectant wipe.
3. Employee/student being fit-tested and EHS staff wear medical masks per UofT policy. The employee/student being fit-tested will sit at a designated seat located behind a plexiglass barrier and will keep their medical mask on until it is time to don the respirator.
4. The fit-tester will install the tubing to the probe (for N95 respirators) or attaching respirator cartridges with tubing connected (for half- or full-face masks) onto the respirator that the employee/student brings with them to the fit test. There will be no sharing of respirators – employee/student are expected to bring their own respirator, particularly the elastomeric respirator. The tubing that extends from the respirator cartridges used during the fit test will be disinfected between users.
5. The employee/student will be given instructions on how to don the respirator. The instructions will be given verbally, from at least 2 metres away, and behind a plexiglass barrier.
6. The fit test itself will have 7 breathing exercises prompted by the software. The fit-tester will be 2 metres away to observe and provide instructions to the employee/student throughout the test.
7. After the fit-test is complete and with the employee/student still wearing the respirator, the fit-tester will demonstrate how to properly perform a positive and negative pressure seal check.
8. After the fit test, the employee/student will doff the respirator and pass the respirator back to the fit-tester through the opening at the bottom of the plexiglass. The fit-tester will remove the respirator cartridges and/or tubing. Employee/student will re-don their medical mask. The fit-tester will then demonstrate how to properly disinfect the respirator using a respirator cleaning wipe (for half- or full-face masks).
9. N95 respirators which have been used for the fit-test will be disposed. Respirator cartridges used during the fit-test will be disinfected with disinfectant wipes.
10. A fit testing card will be given to the staff/student after the fit test.
11. Reminders – employee/students must be clean shaven, have taken the online training, and provide the respirator user screening form prior to the fit test.