

MEMO

Date: March 12, 2020
To: Regional, Site and Program Leadership

From: **Dr. Brent Roussin**
Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead
Health System Integration & Quality,

Re: **N95 Respirator Fit Testing Priorities**

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus/>
<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/health-providers/coronavirus-resources/>

In order to ensure preparedness and staff safety related to COVID-19, **all N95 respirator fit testing is focused on staff who may perform Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs)** or who may be present in a room where an AGMP is being performed. This includes physicians and medical residents.

It is important to note that N95 respirators are **only** required for AGMPs. Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) measures for COVID-19 remain Enhanced Droplet/Contact Precautions.

While N95 respirators are also required for IP&C airborne precautions in the disease specific protocols including but not limited to tuberculosis, measles and chicken pox, staff who are immune to vaccine-preventable diseases (e.g., measles, chicken pox) **do not** need to wear N95 respirators to go into the isolation room for these specific diseases. Staff who have not previously been confirmed to meet these criteria will also be prioritized for fit testing.

We ask that all regions, sites and managers review sign-up sheets for fit testing to ensure that only those staff and health-care providers who meet the above criteria are sent for N95 respirator fit testing at this time.

Staff with recently expired 3M Aura, V-Flex or 1860 respirator fit testing can continue to wear the same make/model/size to which they were fit tested unless they have experienced a significant change in facial structure. They should NOT be sent for fit testing at this time.

Staff should be reminded of the following:

- Do not eat, drink (other than water), smoke or chew gum for 20 minutes before the respirator fit test.

- Staff must be clean shaven where the respirator seals to the face (as per the CSA Standard) for fit testing or when wearing the respirator. See [Clean Shaven Requirements](#) which includes pictures of acceptable and unacceptable facial hair. Facial hair will interfere with the respirator's ability to seal to the face.

All regions/sites and units have been asked to take precautions to ensure that supplies of personal protective equipment, including procedure/surgical masks and N95 respirators, are maintained. Please refer to the [COVID-19 –Appropriate Stock, Storage and Use of Unit Supplies including Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#) memo which includes the following direction

- Ensure PPE supplies are being used as per clinical recommendations. Symptomatic patients and those who meet the screening criteria are to be provided with procedure or surgical masks. See more by referring to <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/health-providers/coronavirus-resources> (COVID-19 Highlights Quick Reference for Staff and IPC Acute Care Manual).
- Do not remove PPE supplies from any unit. Inventory of PPE supplies is being closely monitored by unit supply coordinators. Supply Chain is actively engaged in Manitoba's COVID-19 Incident Management and response and stock and supplies are being monitored.