



To whom it may concern,

Due to the continued shortage of medical N95 respirators, Practice Education programs are currently unable to provide respiratory fit testing opportunities for their students embarking on clinical placements.

The [Student Practice Education Guideline for HealthCare Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) covers N95 fit testing:

It is anticipated that not all students will require fit testing for an N95 respirator. An N95 respirator and eye protection (i.e., goggles or face shield), gloves and gown are required for procedures that are aerosol generating for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 or airborne diseases. Where PSIs (Post-Secondary Institutions) are temporarily unable to undertake N95 fit testing, HCOs (Health Care Organizations) are encouraged to support N95 fit testing for those students who require it where possible.

Additionally, Appendix A of Section 1- 4 ([Respiratory Protection](#)) of the Practice Education Guideline states:

The requirement for an N95 and fit-testing, as the result of exposure to airborne infectious agents, should only be considered if there is no other way in which the student is able to achieve his/her learning goals.

For additional information, please see this [November 2020 memo](#) from the Health Authority Practice Education Committee (HAPEC), in partnership with the Provincial PPE/N95 Sub-Working Group, regarding current approaches to respirator fit testing.

Program learning goals can be achieved without student participation in procedures that require the use of a respirator. Learning opportunities that require the use of a respirator may arise, however, that could supplement students' learning. In these cases, we are thankful for those areas able to offer N95 fit testing to our students when possible.

It's been very encouraging to see the coordination and cooperation between UBC and all of the Health Authorities over the last year. Health Authority support for our programs and our students continues to be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

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