

IC4: 0260 Respirator Requirements and Recommendations

The purpose of this document is to provide respirator use and fit- testing requirements for staff working in Fraser Health Owned and Operated and affiliated Long-term care communities (LTC). The recommendations for respirator options in relation to (a) airborne spread disease control and (b) hazardous (cytotoxic) drug exposure control.

Respiratory protection is required:

1. When residents are placed on airborne precautions until they are transferred to acute care for higher level of care. Examples confirmed or suspected pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis, Chicken Pox (Varicella), Measles, and disseminated Herpes Zoster.
2. Cleaning up body fluid spills larger than 50mL from residents on Cytotoxic Precautions.
3. Emerging respiratory pathogens and pandemics.



Respiratory Protection Options

- Respirators
 - A high filtration respirator (e.g., N95 or Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR)) must be worn prior to entry into the room of a person we serve suspected or known to have microorganisms that are spread by the airborne route.
 - Staff must be fit tested for N95 respirator. See [Fit Testing](#) resource for more info.
 - An N95 respirator must be worn when a person we serve on droplet precautions is undergoing an AGP.

N95 respirators are not fluid resistant, and a full-face shield should be worn if sprays or splashes are anticipated

An individual must be clean shaven where the N95 seals with the face

Staff must be fit tested by a qualified fit tester before initial use and retested annually to ensure the respirator provides an effective seal to the users face. Respirators should only be utilized when other more effective measures of protection (elimination/substitution, fume hoods, ventilation or other engineering control) are not adequate or available.

Fraser Health Owned and Operated LTC	
N95 Respirators	PAPR's
	

<p>N95 respirators are designed to provide a tight facial seal and therefore a worker must be fit tested prior to first use and annually thereafter. Based on the fit test result, that will be the only model of N95 respirator the worker wears.</p>	<p>Acquire PAPR(s) (1-2 per site recommended) with HEPA filters.</p>
<p>Education on limitations and training on correct use of N95 respirators will be provided during the required fit testing session. The worker must be fit tested with the same make, model, style, and size of respirator that will be used</p>	<p>Education and training on PAPR use by Workplace Health request through site safety consultant.</p>
<p>Fit testing is valid for one year</p>	<p>PAPRs do not require fit testing.</p>
<p>Workplace Health can mobilize fit-testing services should the need for additional fit-testing in LTC arise (pandemic, outbreak, etc.). These would need to be scheduled Monday to Friday between 8am-4pm and limited to only staff that must provide interim care for resident until they are transported to acute care site.</p>	<p>Ensure protocol in place for equipment maintenance, cleaning and disinfection, battery charging, monthly unit testing. Work instructions required Identify location for PAPR charging and storage</p>

Affiliated LTC	
N95 Respirators	PAPR's
Must have trained fit tester(s) that have attended the train the fit tester course. External consultants can be used to fit test staff. Fraser Health Workplace Health N95 train the Fit-tester courses are available for a fee. safety@fraserhealth.ca	Acquire PAPR(s) (number to be determined) with HEPA filter.
May require fit test kits	Education and training on PAPR use by external consultants can be used or Fraser Health Workplace Health services are available for a fee. safety@fraserhealth.ca
Fit testing is valid for one year	PAPRs do not require fit testing.
	Ensure protocol in place for equipment maintenance and cleaning and disinfection, battery charging, monthly unit testing. Work instructions required

Either of the above respiratory protection options are acceptable for staff providing care to resident(s) on airborne and cytotoxic precautions.

LTC sites choosing to use N95 Respirator Fit-tester(s):	
N95 Train-the Fit-Tester Course Completion	a) No course fee for FH staff Total training time: 5 hours (include course and follow-up practice time) b) Available for a fee to affiliated LTC communities.
Fit-test Kit (if purchased)	a) For Fraser Health sites can borrow a kit from Workplace Health, or b) Purchase a site kit for ~\$300.00. This can be used to complete multiple fit-tests.
Reference: N95 Respirator Guidelines-Fraser Health	

