

Respiratory Protection Program

Developed on: 10/2016

Reviewed/Revised on: 10/17, 10/18

Purpose: To provide a standard for the fit testing and use of National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved N95 particulate filtering face-piece respirators by employees who may be exposed to Mycobacterium tuberculosis or other diseases as recommended by the CDC during the regular performance of their VNA job duties.

Considerations: VNA will follow the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines for personal protective equipment and the OSHA-Accepted Fit Test Protocols.

Procedure:

- A. A confidential medical evaluation to determine the employee's ability to use a respirator, before the employee is fit tested, will be performed through a third party vendor as outlined in OSHA standard 29 CFR 1010.134. Evaluation results will be kept on file in Human Resources.
 1. New employees entering into a role with exposure risk will be provided the medical evaluation upon onboarding.
 2. Existing employees who have not received the medical evaluation and will be performing in a role with exposure risk will be provided the medical evaluation prior to being fit tested.
 3. Employees who are determined unable to use a respirator are unable to complete the fit testing.
- B. All fit testing is conducted by personnel who received training and show competency in proper fit testing technique.
- C. Initial fit testing will take place during new hire orientation, or when an existing employee's job duties change to a role with exposure risk.
- D. After initial fit testing, employees will be fit tested annually or when weight has changed more than 20 pounds, facial features have changed, or there is a change in respiratory status.
- E. Employees with facial hair (beard growth, mustache, or side burns) that prevents the proper seal of the mask to the face are unable to complete the fit testing.
- F. Employees who fail or are unable to complete the fit testing will be excused from providing care/services to patients/clients who are suspected to have M. tuberculosis or other airborne communicable conditions.
- G. Employees' fit testing results along with mask type and size will be kept in Human Resources.

Resource(s): OSHA Regulations (Standards – 29 CFR) 1910.134

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=12716

Siegel, JD, Rhinehart, E, Jackson M, Chiarello L, and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee, 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings, Appendix A, pp. 93-116.
<http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007IP/2007isolationPrecautions.html>