

# Availability of N95 fit testing for community practices

## Staff and medical staff safety are of utmost importance to Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH)

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and flu season ahead, VCH is reminding staff and medical staff that respirator fit testing is available – scheduled or as needed.



## Why?

Fit testing can ensure that the wearer is using the right model and the right sized mask for their face. It is also an opportunity to receive support on how to properly [don \(put on\)](#) and [doff \(take off\)](#) a respirator, so as not to self-contaminate.

Medical procedure masks are essential for most patient care activities and extremely effective in providing protection –when the masks fit properly.

When performing [aerosol generating medical procedure \(AGMPs\)](#) in patients suspected of having specific respiratory infections (e.g. influenza), as well as for caring for patients with airborne communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, N95s should be used.

- N95 respirator is not required for nasopharyngeal and throat swabs. A medical mask, face shield, safety glasses or goggles, gloves, and gown are sufficient.
- For AGMPs when COVID-19, influenza-like illness, TB or other airborne disease is suspected, use a N95 respirator along with face shield, safety glasses or goggles, gloves, and gown.
- Use a N95 whenever indicated by your [point-of-care risk assessment](#).



## How?

Members and affiliated community physicians of a division of family practice in the VCH region are welcome to book a fit testing session using the relevant link or show up at a session at a preferred location.

<b>Lions Gate Hospital</b>  Seminar A Room (15 <sup>th</sup> St entrance, near CST Hub) 231 15 <sup>th</sup> St E, North Vancouver	<a href="https://app.waitwhile.com/book/ft-lgh">app.waitwhile.com/book/ft-lgh</a>  <i>Last Friday of every month</i> 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.
<b>Richmond Hospital</b>  Auditorium 7000 Westminster Hwy, Richmond	<a href="https://app.waitwhile.com/book/ft-rh">app.waitwhile.com/book/ft-rh</a>  <i>First Tuesday of every month</i> 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
<b>UBC Hospital</b>  Koerner Lecture Theatre, Room 279G 2211 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver	<a href="https://app.waitwhile.com/book/ft-ubc">app.waitwhile.com/book/ft-ubc</a>  <i>Second Thursday of every month</i> 12 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.
<b>Vancouver General Hospital</b> <b>Doctors Residence</b> Room 124 2775 Heather Street, Vancouver  <b>Jim Pattison Pavilion</b>  Room: JPP Courtyard 899 W 12th Avenue, Vancouver	<a href="https://app.waitwhile.com/book/ft-vgh">app.waitwhile.com/book/ft-vgh</a>  <i>Every Thursday</i> 8:20 a.m. – 3 p.m.  <a href="https://app.waitwhile.com/welcome/ft-vgh-jpp-courtyard">app.waitwhile.com/welcome/ft-vgh-jpp-courtyard</a> <i>Every Friday</i> 8:40 a.m. – 3 p.m.
<b>Rural Settings</b> Please contact <a href="mailto:dean.fleten@vch.ca">Dean Fleten</a> : <a href="mailto:dean.fleten@vch.ca">dean.fleten@vch.ca</a> to arrange fit testing, if none of the above sessions are convenient.	

## Questions?

If you have any questions about facial protection, please do not hesitate to contact the People Safety Team at [peoplesafety@vch.ca](mailto:peoplesafety@vch.ca), or Medical Practitioners Occupational Safety and Health at [mPOSH.vch@ubc.ca](mailto:mPOSH.vch@ubc.ca). mPOSH will keep a record of the respirators that fit you.

