

P2 (N95) respirator / fit testing general information (update 31 May 2021)

Thank you all for taking part in the 3M (P2) N95 mask fit tester training. Here are a few updates with the latest information we have:

1. The MOH are in the process of asking practices to complete a “fit testing declaration”. This follows the **AS/NZS 1715:2009** standard for P2 (N95) respirator use. You should complete this once your staff are fit tested or as declaration that you will ensure your staff are fit testing before using P2 respirators. The fit tester training that is being run through PHN meets the standard they have set.
2. The MOH has stock of the 3M P2 respirators (9320A+ and 1870+). In the event of Covid19 widespread community outbreak or an increase to level 3 alert the MOH will distribute these masks to general practices that have completed fit tester training and/or fit testing on their staff as per the declaration.
3. To make the process easier the MOH has agreed to supply MHN with a supply of P2 respirators that we will be able to give to practices for the purpose of fit testing.
4. When, who and where to use P2 respirators for general practice / urgent medical care staff as per *MOH Interim Guidance 9 April 2021*.

“when having close interactions with a patient in a closed confined space such as a poorly ventilated examination or procedure room¹ in the following two situations:

1) When there is widespread community transmission, which will be defined and communicated by public health or When Alert Level changes to 3 or 4 AND With a patient presenting with potential symptoms of COVID-19, including atypical symptoms*

2) With any person who meets the HIS criteria listed and has potential symptoms of COVID-19*, including atypical symptoms, and is not fully immunised.*

** In the 14 days prior to illness onset the person has had: contact with a confirmed or probable case, worked on an international aircraft or shipping vessel or exited an MIQ Facility (excluding recovered cases). * <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-health-professionals/case-definition-and-clinical-testing-guidelines-covid-19>*

This update confirms that frontline healthcare staff in General Practice and Urgent Medical Care should assess the risk within their own practice environment. Where such risk is identified, they can then determine whether they should wear a P2/N95 respirator.

If your practice chooses to start using other P2 respirators now you will need to purchase a supply outside of the MOH process. Due to supply and demand there is a high likelihood these masks will not be the 3M (9320A+ and 1870+) in which case you will have to fit test each type of respirator you use and retest with each change.

We recommend practices:

- Complete fit tester training (provided by Pinnacle and 3M).
- Order a supply of P2 respirators (3M 9320A+ and 1870+) through Health Care Logistics for the purpose of fit testing your practice staff.
- Order your own fit testing kit or loan one from us.
 - MHN have a small supply for short term loan purposes but are recommending practices purchase their own to have on hand for business as usual.
 - If you would like to loan one of the MHN fit test kits, contact Jessica Knight for Taranaki or Helen Terlesk for Waikato.
 - Kit details - Qualitative Fit Test Kit FT – 30 Bitter (Bitrex) Kit.
Additional/replacement fit test kit parts if required:
- 3M Fit Test Nebulizer FT-13
 - 3M Fit Test Hood FT-14
 - Kits can be ordered from 3M Safety Distributors e.g. NZ Safety Blackwood's, Amare Safety, Safety and Apparel, Cory's Trade Safety, plus Medical Distributors such as Onelink.
- Fit test your practice staff using the P2 respirators provided by the MoH.
- Complete the MoH declaration and send it to them for their records.
- Consider as a team if there are circumstances when N95 respirators would be indicated outside of a level 3 lockdown (e.g. in a measles outbreak) – draw up a protocol.

If you have any questions or problems, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ngā mihi | with kind regards

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