



## Student Fit Testing

**Background:** On July 7, 2004 the Ontario Hospital Association issued *Recommendations for OHA Members Regarding Ongoing Respiratory Protection*. Two of the recommendations referred specifically to students placed in Ontario Hospitals:

7. *Organizations should also ensure that other non-employees such as students, physicians and volunteers follow the respiratory protection program and policies of the organization.*
9. *Organizations should work with student placement institutions to ensure incoming students are trained on respiratory protection programs and if they will be placed in high-risk areas, ensure they are fit-tested to approved N95 respirators prior to starting their student placement.*

In consideration of these recommendations, the Niagara Health System previously communicated to its academic partners that effective January 1, 2005, all students placed in patient care areas must be fit tested prior to the beginning of their placement. Upholding our continuous commitment to student safety when completing placements at the NHS, the following revisions to the student fit testing requirements have been made:

- Commencing April 12, 2010 all students coming for placement at the Niagara Health System will be required to be fit tested **prior to** the start of their placement.
- It will be the responsibility of the educational institution to ensure that the fit testing is completed for all students and that they have been fit tested for an N95 respirator that is available in the Niagara Health System. A list of companies that provide fit testing services is available upon request.
- All NHS managers have been notified that, unless fit tested, students are not to provide care to any patients whose condition requires that this type of protective equipment be worn by their caregivers.

### Exemptions:

Students must provide the Coordinator, Student Resources with a written personal statement for a religious exemption and a written physician's statement for a medical exemption. Respiratory protection for these students will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**N95 Respirators currently stocked by the NHS:**

- 3M 8110s
- 3M 8210
- 3M 1860
- 3M 1860s
- 3M 1870

If the mask that you have been fitted for does not appear on this list please contact Student Resources.

If you require additional information, please contact:

***Lorrie Forget - Coordinator, Student Resources***

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