

Puget Sound Region fit testing updated (from April 3). We know the process for fit testing for N95 masks has added to the anxiety around Covid-19 in Puget Sound.

- Our ability to fit test staff has been limited by testing supplies. To adequately test individuals, we need both a bitter and a sweet solution. As with most of our supplies, these solutions have been limited across the world.
- Yesterday we were down to only being able to add 100 additional staff to the approved list for testing. Thanks to our resourceful Infection Prevention, Safety and Pharmacy teams we are in the process of compounding our own solution. We believe we will have additional solution on Monday to allow further staff to be approved for fit testing.
- [We have updated the provided priority grid to reflect changes in testing.](#)

Update on N95 fit testing (from April 1). In PSR, CAPRs are still our first respirator to use when doing aerosol-generating procedures. We are fit testing N95 masks as a back up to CAPRs and are monitoring our CAPR supplies daily.

- Groups on the approved list ([updated list attached](#)) should be getting fit tested at Tacoma General, Auburn and Good Samaritan from 3-11pm this week.
- We are evaluating our fit testing supplies and will be moving groups from the “awaiting approval group” to the “approved group” as supplies allow.
- Fit testing for N95 means you are fit tested but does not mean you should be wearing N95 masks at all times. Respirators (CAPRS and N95) should be used when doing an aerosol-generating procedure on a COVID-positive or COVID-suspected patient.
- If you feel a group should be approved for fit testing, please reach out to the Medical Branch lead (currently Brian Livingston).
- Please do not ask the fit testers to make an exception. They do not have the authority to deviate from the prioritization grid without Medical Branch leader approval.

(Additional information from the March 30 update:

In the Inland Northwest, N95 masks have been the primary strategy prior to COVID-19 and the vast majority of providers and staff in affected units and clinics have been fit tested already.

- The elastomeric masks were prioritized to Respiratory Therapy because of their high risk and high use, which helps conserve PPE.
- MultiCare continues to follow recommendations from the World Health Organization

(WHO) and Washington Department of Health that recommend reserving respirators for COVID-19 positive or symptomatic patients undergoing aerosolizing procedures.

- We understand that many specialty societies have recommended respirators (N95 mask or CAPR) for all patients undergoing potentially aerosolizing procedures regardless of COVID-19 status or risk factors, including asymptomatic patients. We will continue to evaluate recommendations and adjust based on WHO/DOH/CDC guidance as well as our current and projected PPE supply levels.