

Finding a fit tester or sourcing training to become one

Updated 02.07.20: see highlighted sections

1. National guidance about fit testing of respirators (disposable FFP3/FFP2/N95 or reusable half masks with replaceable P3 particle filters)

The OCDO England dental standard operating procedure: transition to recovery <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/dental-standard-operating-procedure-transition-to-recovery/> (which is also referenced in the urgent dental care standard operating procedure) says:

“FFP3 (filtering 98% of airborne particles) respirators are advised for all AGPs to prevent inhalation of aerosols. This is because FFP3 respirators offer a slightly higher level of protection than FFP2 respirators and advice aims to offer the greatest protection. However, the HSE has stated that FFP2 and N95 respirators (filtering at least 94% and 95% of airborne particles respectively) offer protection against COVID-19 and so may be used if FFP3 respirators are not available. These respirators offer protection against AGPs, are recommended by the World Health Organization and are used routinely in other countries by dentists for AGPs. All respirators need to be fit tested and checked.

Other respirators can be utilised by individuals if they comply with HSE recommendations. Reusable respirators should be cleaned according to the manufacturer’s instructions.”

“All respirators should:

- be specifically fit-tested and fit-checked for the specific make and model of the respirator on all staff undertaking AGPs to ensure an adequate seal/fit according to the manufacturers’ guidance
- be fit-checked (according to the manufacturers’ guidance) by staff every time a respirator is donned to ensure an adequate seal has been achieved”

2. How can I get my dental team fit tested for respirators?

Dental teams must be **fit tested** by a trained fit tester for every make, model, material and size of respirator they wish to wear. These may be disposable FFP3/FFP2/N95 or reusable half masks with replaceable P3 particle filters. **Fit checking** should be performed every time a respirator is donned, but it is not a substitute for the fit testing of different respirators.

INDG479 provides the latest guidance on fit testing.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg479.htm>

HSE guidance about fit testing to avoid transmission during the coronavirus outbreak can be found here: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/ppe-face-masks/face-mask-ppe-rpe.htm>

To get your dental team fit-tested:

- a) You may employ the services of a Fit2Fit accredited fit tester, who can go to a specified site to conduct a Fit2Fit accredited contract fit testing service (either Qualitatively or Quantitatively). A list of external accredited fit testers is available here: <https://www.fit2fit.org/find-a-tester/>
- b) Alternatively, you may wish to have two or more members of your dental team trained to become qualitative fit testers. It is useful to have at least two people trained so they can support and help each other, as the fit-testing process can be demanding for those new to it. Again, a list of companies who provide 'Fit2Fit approved' training courses run by a Fit2Fit accredited face fitter is available here: <https://www.fit2fit.org/fit2fit-approved-training-providers/> . If a course is 'Fit2Fit approved' it means that the content has been judged to include all aspects of the Health and Safety Executive's face fitting guidance and protocols, and will be delivered by a Fit2Fit accredited face fitter. This course does not award delegates the Fit2Fit accreditation upon completion; no training course can do that. The only way to gain accreditation is to sit and pass the BSIF Fit2Fit exam. Please clarify which types of respirator the qualitative fit test training course covers. Those trained to become fit testers must notify their employers liability insurer and professional indemnity company of their intentions to providing fit testing, and for whom (e.g. UDCs only/own practice dental team/for dental teams in other dental practices).
- c) RPA Ltd (www.face-fit.co.uk) runs 'Fit2Fit approved' training courses. They are working with NHSE and HEE to provide qualitative fit test training sessions. They will be providing a number of 'face to face' whole day fit test training sessions for participants at venues across Yorkshire and the Humber. These will be organised on a regional basis by LDN chairs and HEE, on the understanding that, with appropriate indemnity in place, you will be prepared to fit test dental teams from dental practices in your locality.
- d) Training and testing services (<https://www.trainingandtestingservices.co.uk/>) are working with HEE Yorkshire and Humber to provide 'Fit2Fit approved' qualitative fit test training sessions. These have been organised by LDN chairs and HEE.
- e) You could contact local colleagues who have already been on a 'Fit2Fit approved' qualitative fit test training course with certification, run by a Fit2Fit accredited face fitter (see <https://www.fit2fit.org/fit2fit-approved-training-providers/>). Your Local Dental Committee or Local Dental Network may be able to help with linking you up with trained fit testers to fit test your team.

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