



Family Nursing & Home Care

Standard Operating Procedures

Fit Mask Testing

6 July 2022

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Version Control / Changes Made

Date	Version	Summary of changes made
June 2022	2	No longer requirement for annual retesting

Contents

Introduction.....	4
SOP 1 Fit Mask Tester Training	6
SOP 2 Access to and return of testing equipment.....	7
SOP 3 Testing Regime.....	8
SOP 4 Testing Process	9
SOP 5 Use and cleaning of Corpro mask.....	25

Introduction

Family Nursing & Home Care (FNHC) is committed to supporting all of our staff to safely practice and deliver care to all of our patients, clients, children and young people.

COSHH 2002 regulations state PPE shall be 'suitable for purpose' to be suitable a respirator must provide an adequate seal to the wearers face.

Fit testing is a means of assessing how well a respirator seals to the face, it has to be an individual test because one model will never 'fit all' as every face is different.

Fit testing is carried out for tight Fitting face pieces, this includes filtering face pieces, full and half face masks, these are both disposable or reusable.

It is good practice to have a system in place that ensures you carry out repeat fit testing of RPE on a regular basis. This is especially important when RPE is used frequently as a primary means of exposure control.

A repeat fit test will also be required if the wearer:

- a) loses or gains weight
- b) undergoes any substantial dental work
- c) develops any facial changes (scars, moles, etc) around the face seal area.

Fit tests must be carried out by a competent person ((HSE 282/28)

Records should be made of all fit testing and should be kept for at least 5 years.

The Government of Jersey [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) guidance](#) for Healthcare Settings (as at August 2021) states that FFP3 masks must be worn when performing an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP) on any person (negative, low risk, suspected or positive) as per the current [AGP list](#). [This includes:](#)

- Cohort positive
- Known Covid positive person (awaiting symptomatic test result does not equal awaiting routine surveillance result)
- Suspected Covid positive

FFP3 masks do not need to be worn for low risk persons such as:

- Patient is not known or suspected COVID-19 positive
- Has had a negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR test within 72 hours of treatment and for planned admissions has self-isolated for the required period
- Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 and have clinically improved and had at least 48 hours without fever (without the use of medication)
- Within primary and secondary care where routine surveillance takes place

FNHC is committed to ensure that:

- Fit mask testers are trained and supported to carry out testing in accordance with Health and Community Services (HCS) training
- FNHC has a FIT mask testing programme.
- FFP3 masks are in line with HCS PPE guidance.
- FIT mask trainers maintain their competence when providing the service and additional testers can be trained.
- Staff know how to access FIT mask testing and what their responsibilities are.
- FIT mask testing is recorded in order to capture data and provide reports of who is and isn't trained to line managers.

These Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) outline the testing process for the FFP3 masks currently available to all staff which include:

- Laianzhi - Un-valved
- Handanhy - Un-valved
- FFP3 – 3M Aura 1863+ Un-valved
- Corpro masks – non disposable

Whilst not directly linked to FIT Mask Testing, the use and cleaning of the Corpro mask is also included in this document (see SOP 5).

SOP 1 Fit Mask Tester Training

Purpose

To ensure FNHC have access to trained fit mask testers

Scope

Fit mask testers and operational leads

Core Requirements

All fit mask testers are required to have completed fit mask training and any ongoing updates, as provided by Health & Community Services (HCS).

Their competency to continue fit mask testing must be discussed at their annual PDP or sooner if appropriate

FNHC will support staff to attend training sessions for new testers where required and revalidating fit mask testers.

Operational managers are responsible for ensuring that they have one person within their service who is trained and can undertake fit mask testing

Fit mask tester training can be booked via HCS (currently G.Farmer@health.gov.je)

SOP 2 Access to and return of testing equipment

Purpose

Testers will be able to access Portacount machine and fit masks for testing purposes

Scope

This SOP is relevant to trained Fit mask testers. It includes how to access the Portacount machine and the process for its return to Health and Community Services.

Core Requirements

Fit mask testers must book equipment out using the designated calendar and any mechanical issues with the Fit mask machines (Portacounts) can be raised with Nelson De Freitas. (currently N.DeFreitas@health.gov.ie)

All fit mask testers must ensure that they book a Portacount machine using the correct Outlook calendar. Access to this calendar is limited to trained fit mask testers and agreed by L.Bannon@health.gov.ie

Bookings entered on to the outlook room calendar (Portacount 1 , 2 or 3) must contain the name of the fit mask tester, the location that the testing is taking place and the times between which you are booking it.

Fit mask testers are responsible for collection and return of the Portacount machine

On completion of a testing session the Fit mask tester must clean the equipment using Clinell wipes and complete the Portacount check list when packing it away to ensure all is present and correct for the next user.

The Portacount and associated equipment should then be returned to engineer's stores.

SOP 3 Testing Regime

Purpose

All clinical staff working for FNHC are required to be tested initially and as required subject to the following changes

- a) loses or gains weight
- b) Undergoes any substantial dental work
- c) Develops any facial changes (scars, moles, etc) around the face seal area.

to ensure they have access to appropriate FFP3 masks should they be required to use them to safely deliver care

Scope

All clinical staff

Core Requirements

Line managers must identify staff who require FIT mask testing.

All FNHC staff groups identified below:

- Registered Nurses/health visitors/School health nurses
- Care assistants /seniors
- Senior healthcare assistants
- AHP working with FNHC
- FNHC bank staff will all be FIT mask tested as part of their induction.
- nursing students testing will remain responsibility of HCS

It is the responsibility of the line managers of those testing to release staff to fulfil the requirements of FIT mask testing.

- those staff who fail FIT mask testing for all available masks are not required to work with patients who require care to be delivered whilst wearing FFP3 masks. Including
- Cohort positive
- Known Covid positive person (awaiting symptomatic test result does not equal awaiting routine surveillance result)
- Suspected Covid positive

It is the responsibility of the line managers to stay up to date with what FIT masks the organisation are using and to cascade this information to FIT mask testers.

SOP 4 Testing Process

Purpose

Fit mask testers will follow the process for safely testing staff

Scope

All trained fit mask testers

Core Requirements

People who have symptoms of COVID-19 or are isolating with government guidance should not attend a face fit test.

To minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 during face fit testing the following additional measures should be taken:

- Fit-testers should follow government advice on social distancing as they can make observations from this distance and deliver instructions verbally.
- Those being fitted should keep their respirators on if closer observation is required to minimise risk to testers.
- Both the fit tester and those being tested should wash their hands before and after the test in accordance with government guidance.
- Fit testers should wear disposable gloves when undertaking cleaning of the tubes, hoods etc and ensure they remove gloves in line with guidance.
- Immediately dispose of used gloves, disposable masks, cleaning wipes etc. in the appropriate waste bin.

Fit testers should familiarise themselves with the following potential contact points and actions to minimise transmission:

Contact points	Action to minimise transmission
Moisture from the wearers breath collected inside the ambient particle counting device tubing.	Have a stock of spare tubes and rotate the tubes between tests to allow used tubes to dry.
Fit testing adaptors and sampling probe	Clean using a suitable disinfectant cleaning wipe.

Filters	Although the wearers exhaled air does not pass through the filters used when testing half and full facemasks, they may be re-used and handled between tests and so should be wiped using a suitable disinfectant cleaning wipe.
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Get out all the equipment and leads ready. Attach all leads to necessary ports as labelled on plugs.



Take out black nozzle from here

Take out silver nozzle out of the Alcohol bottle. Spare alcohol solution in mesh black bag if this needs to be topped up.

Put silver nozzle into hole.

Put black plug onto alcohol jar.



Plug in all leads. Black porta count lead to wall plug and to porta count. Plug in laptop.

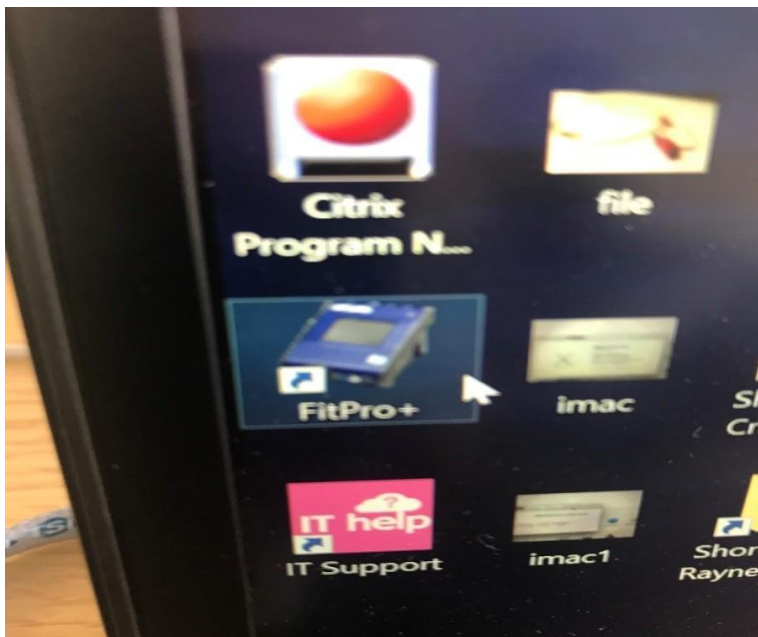
Standard Operating Procedures Fit Mask Testing

Date Approved

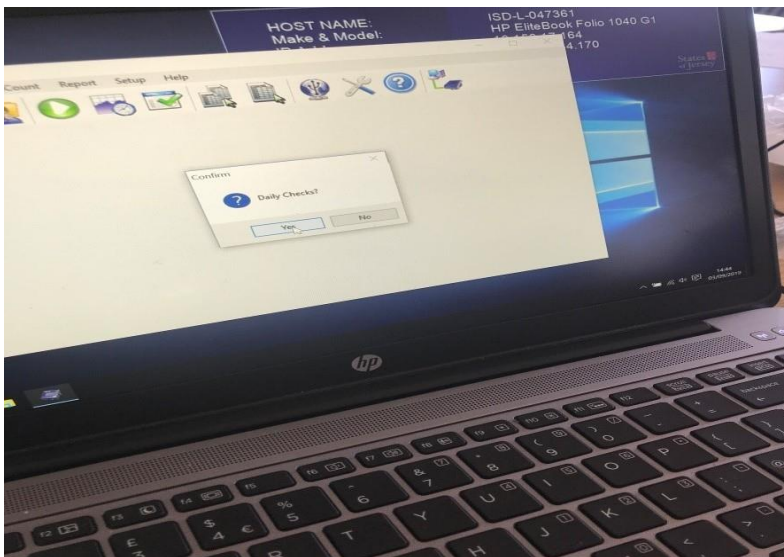
Log into system using own user
name and password

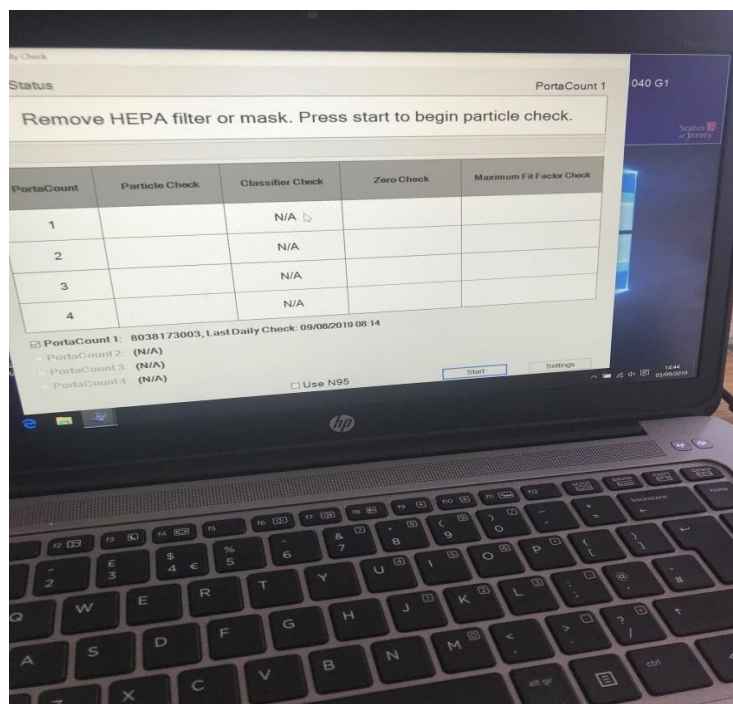


Click on Fit Pro+ to start
programme



Confirm daily checks—click yes

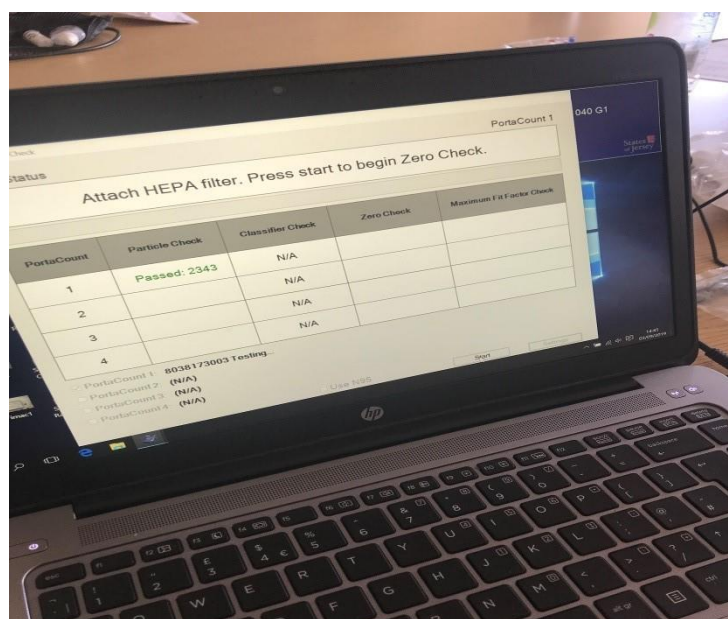




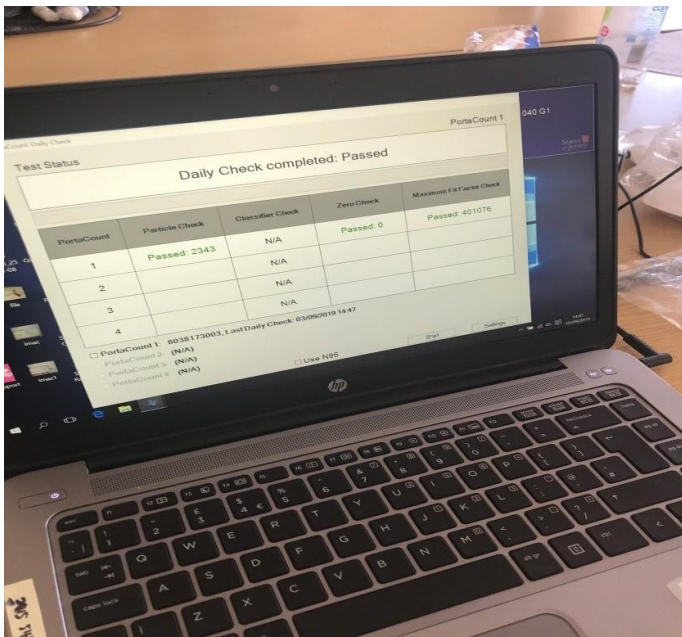
Follow instructions and remove HEPA filter (white tube attached to blue and white leads).



HEPA filter



Once check completed with HEPA removed, attach HEPA filter back and press start.



Once checks completed and passed then press exit.

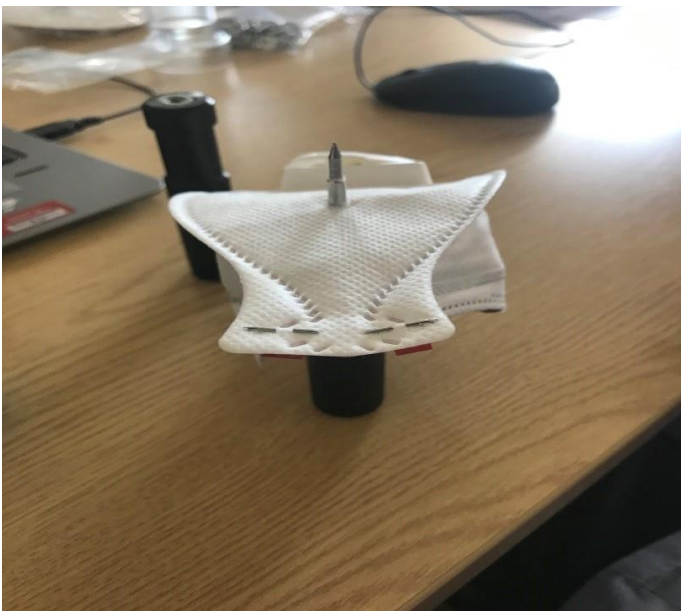


Please note: Particle generator only needed if back ground ambient is below 3,000

Get one tablet of salt and add fresh cold water from kitchen tap-not bedside taps. Dissolve salt tablet and attach to generator as shown. Fill water to level indicated on bottle.

Salt tablets in black mesh bag.

Switch on all the equipment and let generator run for a while. Salt generator to be approximately 2 metres away.



Make sure mask is prepared and ready for use. For rubber reusable masks use the appropriate adaptor.



Fit mask correctly, ensuring good seal around the nose.



Hold tubing, without tugging to keep attachment in place. During the current pandemic please do not place lanyard around neck. Put glasses on if normally would wear to undertake work.

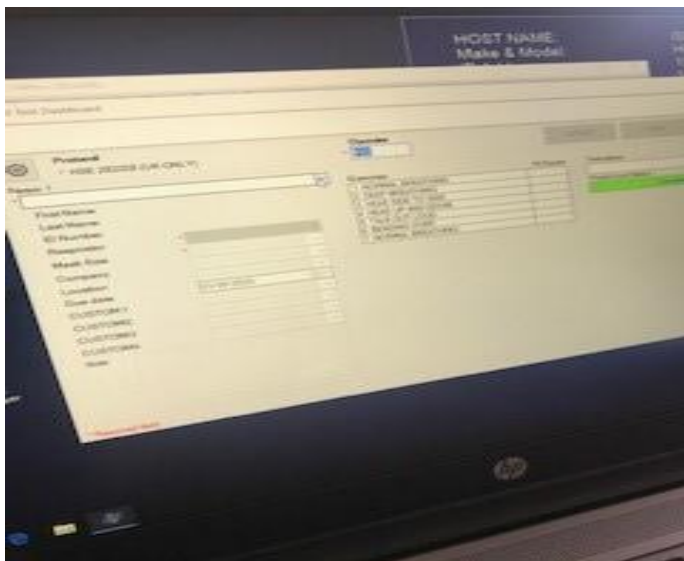


Make sure you are in the correct department or ward on the system page. (Database – Change Active – Select Department)

Firstly select Real Time Screen

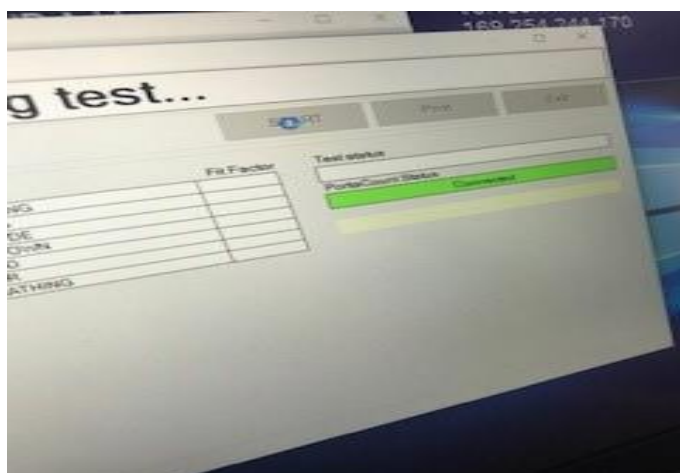
Start Fit test once Real Time Section Complete

Use Real time screen to ensure mask is of suitable fit prior to fit test (Fit Factor generally staying over 100) while performing all exercises briefly. If Fit Factor is below 100, check fit and nose seal.



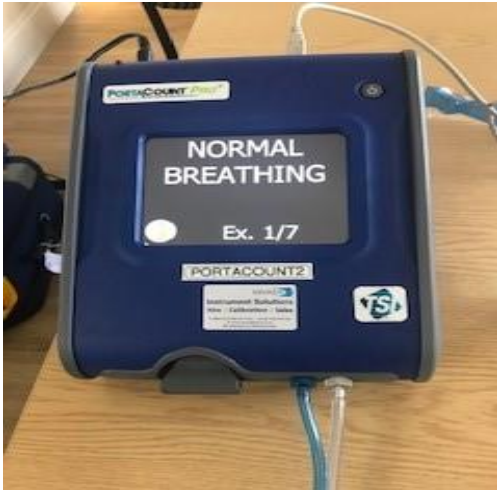
Click on person and find name (or add new person's details as required).

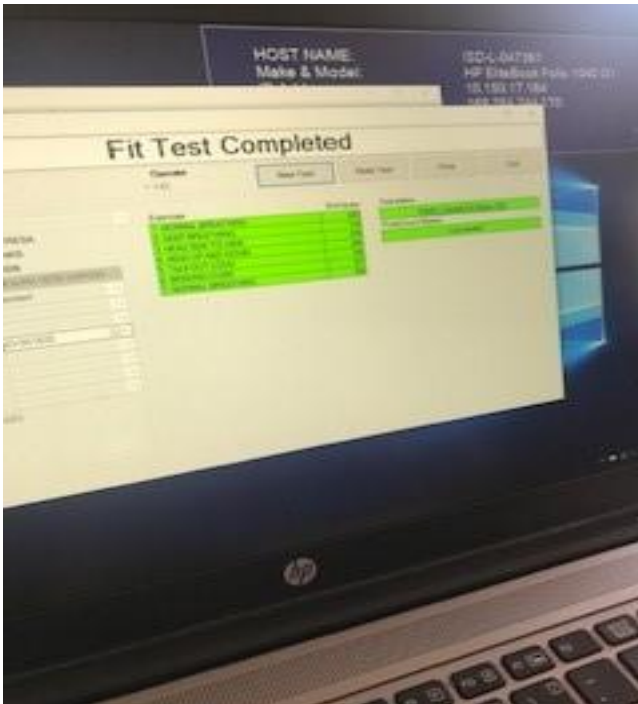
Fill details— respirator and mask size= standard. Add your initials as the Operator. Opportunity to add notes as needed e.g. if person has facial hair not on seal, glasses etc.



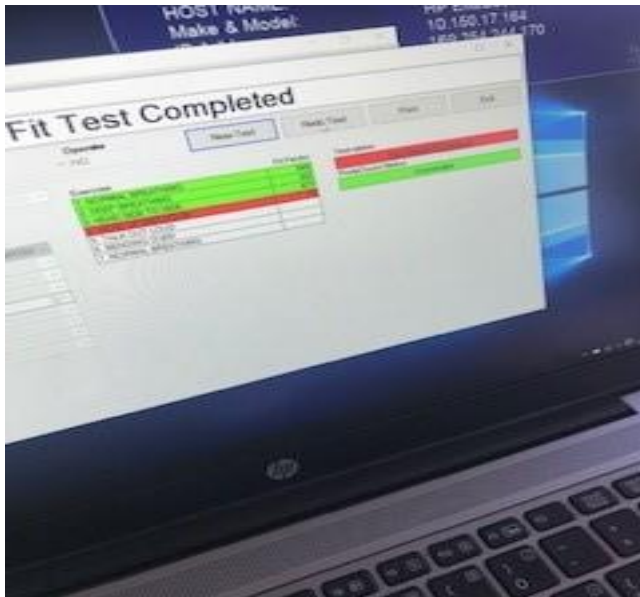
Click on Start test

Go through all screens 1-5 until test complete.

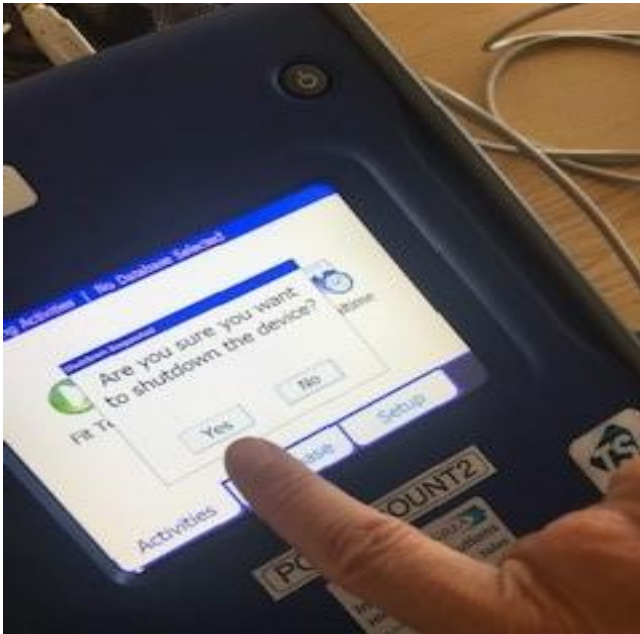




Successful Fit test. Test complete > Exit



If unsuccessful test then redo test unless using a different mask in which case click new test so that new mask details are re-entered.



To finish close Fit Pro Software on the laptop then turn off Portacount.



Place silver nozzle back into alcohol tub and replace black top onto Portacount. Make sure there is enough alcohol in tub (MAX up to line, MIN over bottom of wick). If no alcohol in black mesh bag leave note to replace for engineers.

If there is less than 50 probes please leave a note for engineers to replenish.

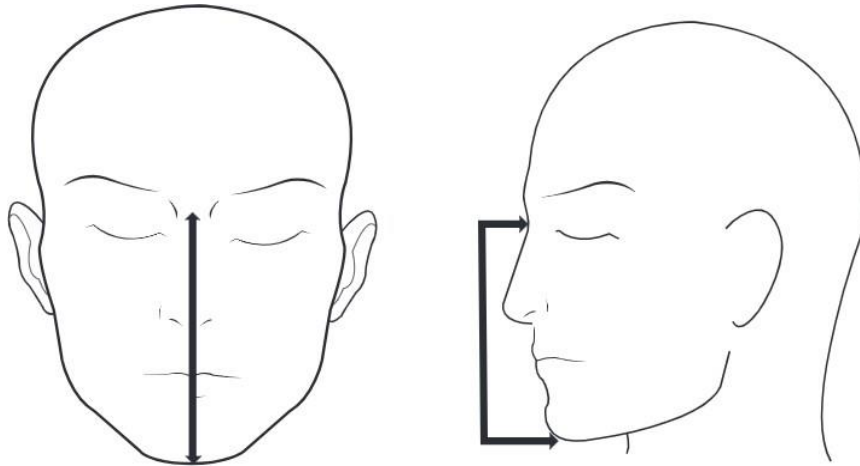
Complete the checklist and return to engineer's stores

Fit Testing – Corpro Mask

Choosing the Right Mask

Prior to testing for the Corpro it is imperative to check the size of the wearer to determine the correct mask size to be worn. To do this follow these steps:

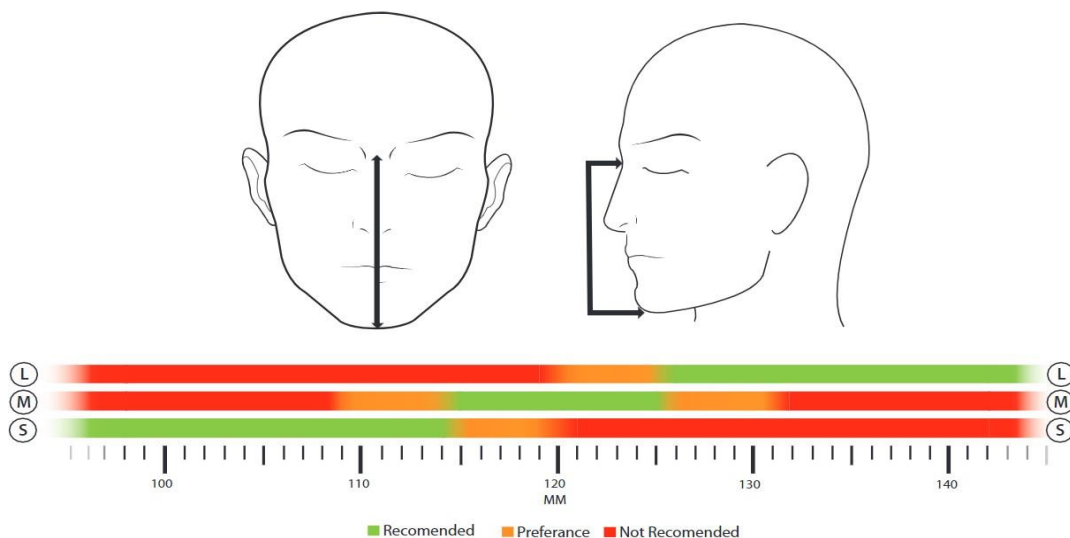
Measure the distance from the bridge of your nose to the tip of your chin using any convenient measuring tool. There is no need to follow the contour of the user's nose.



Based on the measurement in millimetres (mm), use the below guide to determine which size the user should be tested on.

Mask Sizing Instructions

Use any convenient measuring tool to measure the distance from the bridge of your nose to the tip of your chin.
Do not follow the contour of the nose as this will give you incorrect measurements
Plot your measurements on the graph below to find the best mask fit.



Fit Testing - Corpro Half Mask

In addition to your normal Fit Testing kit you will require the fit test adapter for the Corpro Half Mask which should be in the kit bag.

- Remove the filters from the mask if fitted
- Fit the fit test adapter to the empty filter slot on one side.
- Secure the tubing inside the mask so that it is not obstructed.



- Connect the clear sample line to the fit test adapter.

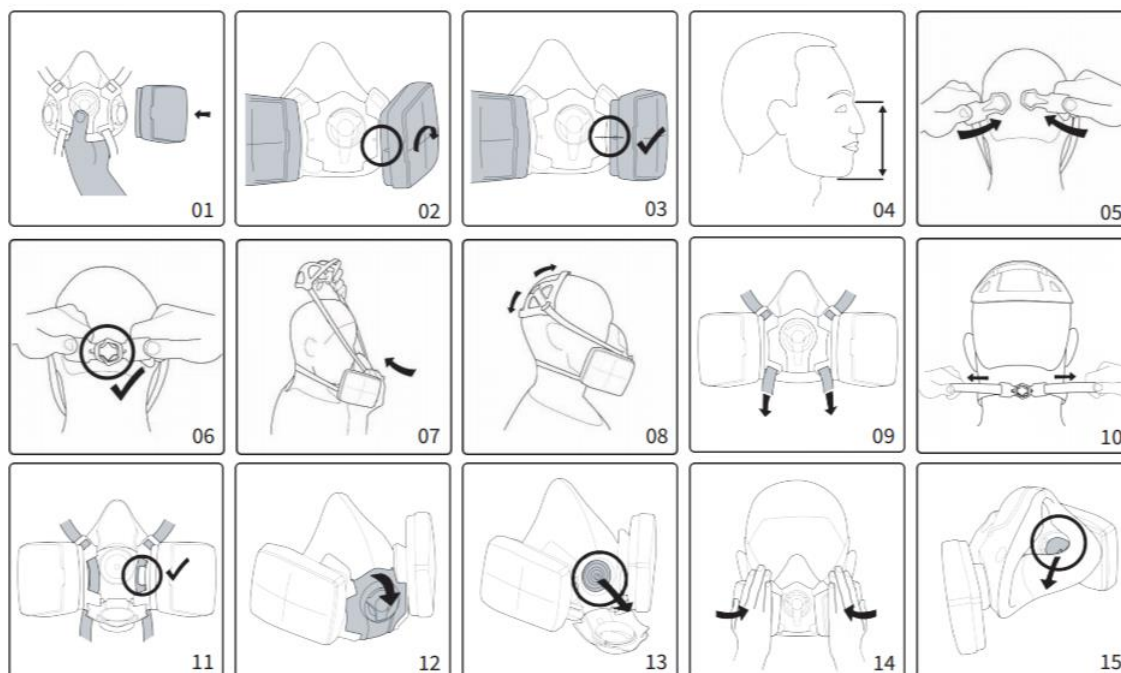


- Fit the test kit filter to the other empty slot
- The user can now don the mask and commence the five minute comfort assessment prior to conducting the fit test.

- After the fit test dispose of the tubing within the mask by unplugging it from the fit test adapter.
- Replace the tubing from the adapter to the inside of the mask for the next user.



Wearing the Corpro Half Mask



Pre-Use Checks

⚠ WARNING: Before donning the respirator always perform the following checks.

- Ensure that the respirator is clean and dry.
- Check the respirator, valves, and head harness for cracks, missing parts, and other defects.
- Check that the appropriate filters are undamaged and installed correctly, with the filter and mask arrows aligned. (See diagrams 01,02 and 03)
- Check that the appropriate filters are undamaged and installed correctly. When fitting the Filters, they will require a firm steady pressure clockwise when viewed from front to fit. The 2 x filter elements must be identical.

Donning

- Select appropriate sized mask. Recommended sizes are: Small <120mm, 109-131mm Medium and > 120mm Large. Based on distance between top of nose and chin (See diagram 04)
- Slacken the head harness straps.
- Connect Harness buckles (Diagram 05 and 06)
- Move the head harness upwards and spread with hand, place your chin in the facepiece and pull the head harness over your head. (Diagram 07)
- Ensure head harness is sitting correctly towards rear of head and is laying flat and not bunched or twisted. (Diagram 08)
- Tension the straps by pulling down on straps at front under mask, which you will feel transfers the weight of the mask to the top of your head. Then tension strap behind neck by pulling the free strap ends towards the rear. (Diagram 09 and 10) Squeeze locking mechanism to ensure buckle teeth lock elastic strap in place.
- Adjust the fit of the mask on your face, with your chin firmly fitted in the face piece and ensure that the mask is not too far up face, and that it fits firmly but remains comfortably. Secure harness position under side slides found below exhale valve cover. (Diagram 11)
- Perform a fit check and readjust if required.

Leak Testing

⚠ WARNING: A proper fit check must be successfully completed each time the respirator is worn. Failure to achieve a proper face-to-respirator seal before you enter a hazardous atmosphere may result in little or no respiratory protection.

During use

⚠ WARNING: If you experience any one of the following signs whilst using the product, leave the hazardous area immediately. Return to fresh air, and seek assistance.

- Breathing difficulty.
- Dizziness or nausea.
- You smell or taste the contaminant.
- Experience any other noticeable physical effects.
- Your equipment becomes damaged.

Doffing

- Slacken the straps in pairs
- Pull the head harness forward over your head and remove the respirator.
- Decontaminate, clean and store respirator as required.

SOP 5 Use and cleaning of Corpro mask

Purpose

Special arrangements are followed for staff who are only able to wear a Corpro mask

Scope

To ensure the reusable Corpro mask is used effectively and to maintain infection control standards of disinfecting the mask

Core Requirements

- Staff will be responsible for their own mask
- For those wearing the mask day-after-day, it is advised to own three pairs of filters per mask and using them on rotation (using pair 1 on the first day, pair 2 on the second, pair 3 on the third, then returning to pair 1 on the fourth day and so on). All three filters must be changed every 3 months
- A record of these filter changes will be kept by the line manager and the user
- Mask and filters will be stored in the provided polythene bag, when not in use
- Clean the mask with Clinell wipes at each doffing and at the end of each shift. Wipe the whole of the mask and the outside of the filters (making sure the solution does not go inside the filters as this will cause damage)
- If filters become clogged or damaged the filter must be changed. A filter can be defined as 'clogged' when it becomes difficult for the user to breathe through. This can occur because the filter has been submerged in cleaning fluid.