



# Respirator fit testing during an influenza pandemic

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# One year ago.....



# Why were the NHS interested in FFP3 respirators?

Table 1: Personal protective equipment for staff who care for patients with pandemic influenza

	Entry to cohorted area but no contact with patients	Close patient contact (within one metre)	Aerosol-generating procedures <sup>a</sup>
Hand hygiene	✓	✓	✓
Gloves	✗ <sup>b</sup>	✓ <sup>c</sup>	✓
Plastic apron	✗ <sup>b</sup>	✓	✗
Gown	✗	✗ <sup>d, e</sup>	✓ <sup>e</sup>
Surgical mask	✓ <sup>f</sup>	✓	✗
FFP3 respirator	✗	✗	✓
Eye protection	✗	Risk assessment	✓

Source: DH and HPA, Pandemic influenza: Guidance for infection control in critical care

# What are FFP3 respirators?

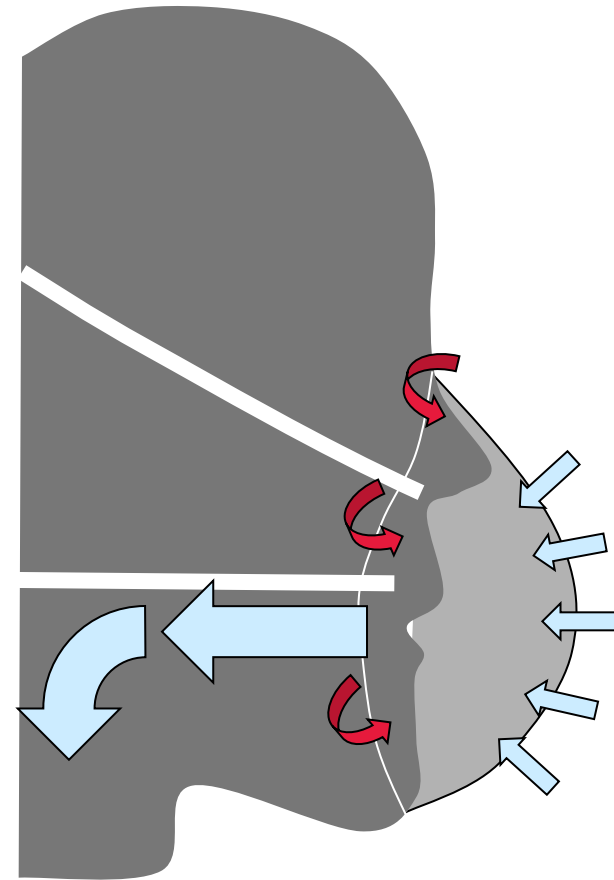


- Designed to filter airborne particles including; dusts, mists, fumes and micro-organisms.
- CE marked Personal Protective Equipment.
- An FFP3 is the most protective class of disposable respirators.
- Work on the principle of negative pressure - an adequate seal to the face must be achieved to ensure the air is filtered.



# Why fit test?

- The law – COSHH 2002 Regulation 7 (9) – states PPE “shall be suitable for purpose”
- To work effectively, and therefore be suitable for purpose, an FFP3 respirator must provide an adequate seal to the wearer’s face
- The accepted way to know whether or not the wearer has an adequate seal is to carry out a face fit test



# Concern over fit testing pass rates

- Initially pass rates varied greatly
- One day in a hospital showed:
  - *Inconsistent fit testing*
  - *Limited training in fitting*
  - *Limited understanding of FFP3 respirators*
  - *Pass rates could be improved significantly*
- Further visits showed mixed approach and results



# Initial lessons learnt

- NHS fit testers needed to be more than fit testers
  - *Often only source of training*
  - *Need good coaching skills*
  - *Need good training*
- Desire to establish regional fit testing specialists in qualitative test method

Qualitative taste test



Quantitative test using Portacount



# 3M fit testing training for NHS

- 52 sessions over 26 days available
- 50 people per session
- Training vetted by DoH/HSE
- Theory and practical covered:
  - *Why use FFP3 respirators?*
  - *What are they?*
  - *How do they work?*
  - *3M™ FFP3 Respirators.*
  - *How to fit.*
  - *The “what’s” and “why’s” of fit testing.*
  - *Establishing a fit testing programme.*



# Feedback from pilot sessions

- NHS staff need to understand why they are being trained and what is expected of them afterwards
- Trainers need to understand NHS logistics
- Alternative products must be available
- Mix of experienced fit testers and novices can be difficult to manage
- Need to cover correct removal of respirator



# Post training support

- Newly trained specialists needed further support
- New support materials and dedicated website created

## Respirator Fit Testing for Healthcare Professionals



The following information is provided to support the implementation of a respirator fit testing programme within a healthcare environment.

**Should you have any queries or need further assistance, please call the 3M NHS Dedicated Helpline on 0845 60 44 196.**

### ▣ Preparing for a Fit Test Programme



#### Guidance on Establishing a Fit Testing Programme

Information for hospitals and PCT's on establishing an in-house capability to conduct qualitative face fit testing of 3M™ Respiratory Products.

 PDF, 41KB



#### Fit Test Training

Information for hospitals and PCT's on establishing an in-house capability to conduct qualitative face fit testing of 3M™ Respiratory Products.

 ppt, 41KB





# Thank You

# Any questions?