The Department of Physical Therapy requires all students to undergo N95 mask fit testing on admission to the program. The N95 disposable mask (or respirator) is an item of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worn by health care workers who are likely to be exposed to patients with airborne communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, measles, chickenpox, and acute respiratory syndrome. Fit testing involves identifying the correct size and type of mask for each student and ensuring that he/she knows how to use it effectively. Many clinical education sites require students to be mask fit tested before they will accept them for clinical placements.

A variety of masks are available, however, students must be fit-tested using the current WRHA standard N95 mask. Each student receives a mask size certificate that is valid for two years. Students may be required to be re-tested if the standard mask changes or a clinical education site has other requirements. If a student’s weight changes significantly within two years of testing, they may require re-testing to ensure an adequate seal.

**Male students please note:** Mask fit testing cannot be performed successfully over facial hair, as this interferes with sealing of the mask. Male students who feel this may be an issue must contact the Physical Therapy Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education early in the fall term for further clarification.

Mask fit testing is scheduled into the fall timetable. Students are required to cover the cost of their mask fit test (approximately $60, paid directly to the tester). At the end of the test, students will receive a certificate indicating the date of the test and the type and size of mask used.

**If students have previously been issued with an N95 mask fit test certificate (e.g. through their employer), they must drop off the original mask size certificate and one photocopy to the College of Rehabilitation Sciences reception desk (R106) by the first Monday in September of the current year.**

Students must file their Mask Fit certificate in their Student Educational Portfolio, and be able to present the certificate at all clinical placement sites they attend while in the program.