



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

**College of Rehabilitation Sciences
Department of Respiratory Therapy
Mask Fit Testing Information**

The Department of Respiratory Therapy requires all students to undergo standard mask fit testing on admission to the program. The 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. The fit testing process involves identifying the correct size and type of mask for each student and ensuring that he/she knows how to use it effectively. **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 the program requires students to be fit tested using the mask that is the standard, and required within the Manitoba Shared Health Service Providers, WRHA and other Manitoba Regional Health Authorities. Each student receives a mask size certificate that is valid for 2 years. Students may be required to be re-fitted if the standard mask changes or a clinical education site has other requirements. If a student's weight changes significantly within 2 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 that this may be an issue must contact the Clinical Education Coordinator immediately, for further clarification.

Mask fit testing will be scheduled into the timetable. 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 a mask fit test certificate (e.g. through employment), they must bring the original mask size certificate as well as a photocopy to the Clinical Education Coordinator.

Note:

Students must file their Mask Fit Certificate in their Student Educational Portfolio, which will be reviewed by the student's Program Advisor at a meeting scheduled in the fall term. Note that students MUST be able to present this certificate at all clinical placement sites they attend while in the program.