

Max Rady College of Medicine Undergraduate Medical Education Policy

Policy Name:	Respiratory Protection ("Mask-Fit")
Application/ Scope:	All registered students in the MD and MD/PhD Program
Approved (Date):	February 2018
Review Date:	February 2023
Revised (Date):	January 2018
Approved By:	UGME Management Committee [February 2018]

1. **PURPOSE**

Affiliated teaching sites of the Max Rady College of Medicine have respiratory protection policies and procedures to follow when health care providers are at risk of exposure to airborne infectious agents. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has established guiding principles for infection control measures for health care workers in acute care, chronic care and primary care facilities. This policy has been developed to protect the health and safety of health professional students, patients and staff.

2. **DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 **UGME** – Undergraduate Medical Education
- 2.2 **WRHA** – Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
- 2.3 **PHAC** – Public Health Agency of Canada
- 2.4 **OPAL** – Online Portal for Advanced Learning
- 2.5 **TTC**- Transition to Clerkship
- 2.6 **FIT TESTING**- The process by which an individual within the medical profession is sized for a facial mask of the proper fit and size.

3. **POLICY STATEMENTS**

- 3.1 All students registered in the MD or MD/PhD Program shall receive infection control instruction as early as practicable following registration; attendance shall be mandatory for this curriculum.
- 3.2 The Max Rady College of Medicine shall provide fit testing for N95 respirators (or respirator type identified by PHAC) following registration and prior to patient contact.
- 3.3 The Undergraduate Medical Education Office shall maintain a record of respirator-fit data including model, size of respirator, expiration date of respirator-fit and site of testing for each student.

- 3.4 Students must comply with the clinical teaching sites' respective policies on respiratory protection in order to protect their health and/or that of patients and facility staff.
- 3.5 Students must report incidents of airborne infectious exposure in accordance with the Faculty's Accidental Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards Policy and Procedures.
- 3.6 Visiting elective students are expected to provide evidence of respirator fit-testing at the time of application, or must provide evidence of current fit-testing with an acceptable model of respirator prior to commencing patient care activities. Failure to comply may jeopardize the student's eligibility for the elective.
- 3.7 WRHA will cover the cost of fit testing Med III students.
- 3.8 Any student who does not get fit-tested in the scheduled time will make arrangements for such at own expense and within a period of time acceptable to UGME by liaising with the Administrator, Clerkship.
- 3.9 This policy will be reviewed on the first anniversary of its original passage and every five years thereafter.

4. **PROCEDURES**

Responsibilities of the Student:

- 4.1 Appear for fit-testing during TTC at the assigned time in OPAL.
- 4.2 If the student is unable to attend at the assigned time, make arrangements to change the time with another student and inform the Administrator, Clerkship of the change.
- 4.3 If fit-testing is not done in accordance with the assigned schedule, arrange to have fit-testing completed and show proof of such to Administrator, Clerkship by the end of TTC for Med III students, knowing that the related costs are the responsibility of the student.
- 4.4 If the student does not wish to be fit tested they must provide the reason why in writing to the Associate Dean, UGME.
- 4.5 If proof of fit-testing is required for electives or clinical rotations, a card is provided at the time of completing the fit-testing. A copy of this card can be used for these purposes. If you prefer, please contact the Administrator, Enrolment for a letter certifying the type and size of fit-testing obtained and date of fit-testing.

Responsibilities of the Administrator, Enrolment:

- 4.6 Upon request from a student, provide a letter certifying the type and size of fit-testing obtained and date of fit-testing.

Responsibilities of the Administrator, Clerkship:

- 4.7 Organize the schedule of fit-testing for Med III students. Generally the schedule will be as follows:
 - Med III – As assigned groups during TTC Module 4, normally over a three day period.
- 4.8 Contact the respective office of WRHA to confirm availability of personnel to complete fit-testing and to address changes to proposed schedule as required.

- 4.9 Book the appropriate room within Banner and Ad Astra.
- 4.10 Confirm that there are no changes to TTC schedule and send a copy of confirmed schedules to WRHA.
- 4.11 Enter student fit-testing schedule into the respective areas of OPAL.
- 4.12 Liaise with WRHA personnel to obtain completed list of students, with required information for their student files, who complied with TTC scheduled test dates.
- 4.13 Contact students who did not complete fit-testing during their assigned date/time and ask them to liaise with WRHA to find a suitable time to complete this requirement or make note of the reason for not participating.

5. **REFERENCE**

- 5.1 UGME Policy and Procedures – Accidental Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards, 2011.

6. **POLICY CONTACT**

Please contact Administrator, Enrolment with questions respecting this policy.