

Launch of Fit Testing for Respiratory Protective Equipment service for London based health care workers

We are pleased to announce the launch of a fit testing service for Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) specifically for health care workers (HCWs) in London. The service will go live for bookings from 11 June 2024, with fit testing sessions available to book from 1 July 2024. This service is accessible to HCWs working in primary care e.g. general practitioners and dental teams.

Why do I need to be fit tested?

Fit testing of RPE is a requirement under Health and Safety Executive legislation and is essential to ensure you and your staff/colleagues' safety, reducing the likelihood of infection. Measles cases have been increasing since late 2023, with clusters in a number of regions, including London. HCWs must wear an FFP3 respirator when in contact with suspected or confirmed Measles cases and other microorganisms that spread via the airborne/respiratory route e.g. chicken pox, influenza and COVID-19.

What is fit testing?

Fit testing is a practical examination to ensure tight-fitting Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE), for example Filtering Face Piece (FFP) 3, mask can properly seal around a wearer's face and is therefore suitable for the individual.

As people and respirators come in a variety of different shapes and sizes, not every facepiece will fit every person. Therefore, it is essential that a person be fit tested per make/model of respirator mask, in order to confirm that a tight-seal is achievable. If a tight-seal is not achievable, that type of respirator will not provide its intended protection, leaving the subject vulnerable to infection.

Do I have to undergo a fit test?

If you are likely to come into contact with a patient with a suspected or confirmed respiratory illness, you must wear RPE. A fit test is required before RPE is used to ensure a tight fit (seal) between the wearers face and the respirator is achieved to provide protection. Examples of respiratory illnesses include measles, chicken pox and influenza.

Where can I have fit testing done?

North East London (NEL) Health and Care Partnership / NHS NEL have partnered with Sunbelt Rentals to provide a fit testing service to HCWs in London. There are two locations: St Leonards Hospital in Hackney and Sunbelt Rentals Head Office in Barking.

How much will it cost?

The cost will be £50 + VAT per person.

Why should I use the service offered by NEL & Sunbelt Rentals?

The advantage of this service is that it enables you to pay-per-person for fit testing with an accredited, eliminating the need to cover a fit test technicians fees for onsite visits when only a few individuals require testing. However, you can select any accredited provider from the Fit2Fit website to conduct fit testing for your practice.

I have had the MMR vaccine, does that mean I do not need to wear RPE if treating a patient with suspected or confirmed measles?

Vaccines do not provide 100% protection; therefore, vaccinated individuals are required to wear RPE.

How do I book the session?

You can book using this link <https://www.sunbeltrentals.co.uk/training/courses/face-fit-testing/>

Or scan the QR code.



It is advisable that you read NEL Fit Testing FAQs prior to booking.

Please note, Sunbelt Rentals refers to fit testing as a Fit Testing course/training session.

How long will the training session take?

The session will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.

Where will fit testing take place?

There will be sessions held weekdays, evenings and weekends at two locations: St Leonards Hospital in Hackney and Sunbelt Rentals Head Office in Barking.