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MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

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## FIT TESTING AND FIT CHECKING GUIDELINE DURING RESPONSE TO COVID-19

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Due to shortages and challenges in the supply chain, following implementation of extended use and re-use guidelines for N95 respirators, it may be necessary to transition to alternative models. The selection of alternative N95 products will be guided by the principles of (1) staff safety, (2) patient safety, and (3) compliance with regulatory guidelines.

When transitioning to alternative N95 products staff in high risk areas should be prioritized for fit-testing as fit-test supplies are available:

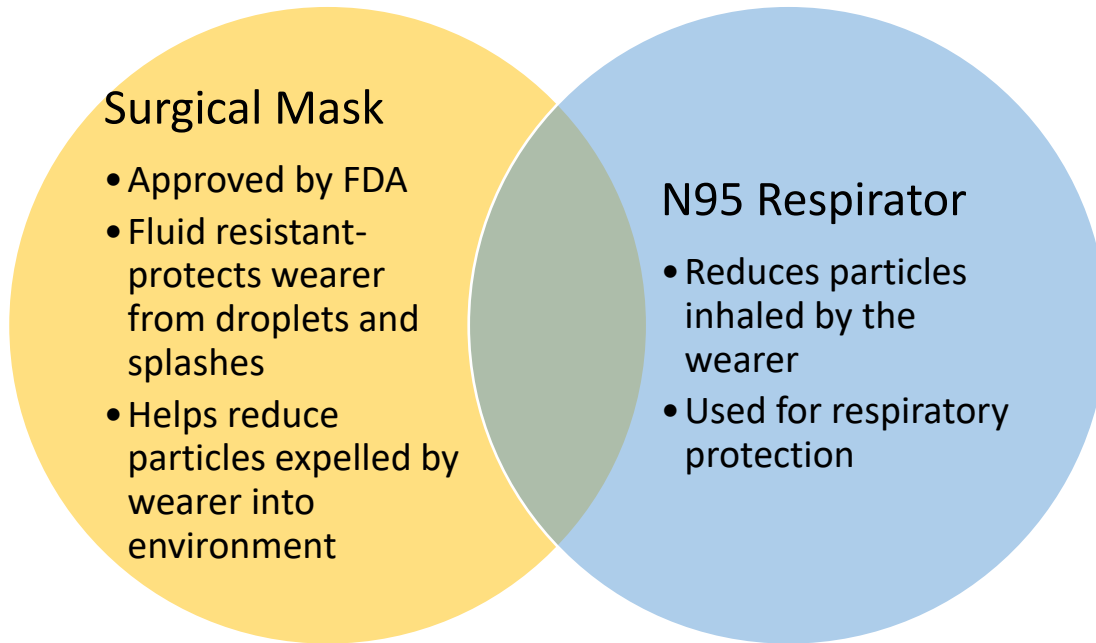
1. Emergency Department, Anesthesia or other clinical groups performing Intubations
2. Critical care clinicians (MD, RT, RN)
3. Clinicians on designated COVID floors
4. Other staff interacting with the patient environment in the areas above (ESD, USAs)
5. Clinicians in COVID testing sites performing NP swabs
6. Clinicians and support staff in other patient care areas

Users need to be instructed in the appropriate method of completing a fit-check/seal check for the make/model of respirator that they are wearing.

During the current COVID-19 pandemic and response the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) on March 2, 2020 to allow NIOSH approved N95 FFRs to be used in healthcare settings, even if they were not distributed, marketed or labeled for medical use and to use expired products. As Mass General Brigham institutions or areas within institutions are transitioned to alternative N95 respirators it is important to understand the appropriate use of these products within a healthcare setting.

End users need to be aware of whether or not the N95 respirator they have is approved as a surgical mask as well. A surgical mask should be worn over an N95 Respirator if a sterile procedure is to be performed, if that respirator is not also approved as a surgical mask.

*This policy or guidance document was developed based on currently available published guidance, in the setting of available supplies and clinical situations at our institutions. Decisions are made collaboratively and are based on ongoing risk-assessments of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. This policy or guidance document represents the best recommendations as March 25, 2020, will be reviewed regularly, and is subject to change as the situation evolves.*



Manufacturer	Product	N95	Surgical Mask	Fit-check method
3M	8210/8210Plus	Yes	No	Exhalation
	8511	Yes	No	Inhalation
	8515	Yes	No	Inhalation
	1860/1860S	Yes	Yes	Exhalation
	1870+	Yes	Yes	Inhale/Exhale
Covidien	82130	Yes		
Kimberly Clark	46767	Yes	Yes	Inhale/Exhale
Jackson Safety	64240	Yes		Exhale
Gerson	2130	Yes	No	Exhale

References:

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/emergency-use-authorizations#covid19ppe>

<https://www.fda.gov/media/136023/download>

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nppt/pdfs/UnderstandDifferenceInfographic-508.pdf>

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134AppB1>

[https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nppt/topics/respirators/disp\\_part/n95list1.html](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nppt/topics/respirators/disp_part/n95list1.html)

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