

Higher Education Bachelor of Nursing HED007

Mask Fit - Student

Fact Sheet



These requirements apply to: HED007: Bachelor of Nursing (BoN)

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet provides information about correct Mask Fit. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with the Course Coordinator or a Placement Officer.

Requirement

Mask fit testing is a **pre-placement annual requirement** that ensures the correct size and brand of respirator mask for your face. A properly fitted mask provides healthcare workers an adequate seal to help protect against illness or injury from respiratory hazards in the workplace.

Students are advised that mask use is mandatory in health facilities and care delivery situations, in accordance with Australian Government and State Health guidelines. Health care providers require students to be fit-tested for the specific type of masks required in workplaces. There are several factors that impact on ensuring an effective seal when wearing the required type of mask. Students are advised of the following requirements for when being fit tested, and while wearing the mask on PEP:

- Facial hair along the sealing surface prevents an effective seal so students are advised they must be clean / closely shaven.
- Long hair that frames the face or falls forward may impact on an effective seal and students are advised to ensure hair is pulled back from the face.
- Facial jewellery that interferes with an effective seal must be removed.
- Facial creams or makeup may cause skin irritation at the site of where the mask sits on the skin surface, and soil or moisten the fabric reducing the seal's effectiveness, and students are advised to minimise the use of such products.

The wearing of industry-approved masks that require fit testing prior to use is mandatory for students attending PEP in the majority of health care settings. Students who are unable to meet the above requirements for whatever reason (including i.e. religious reasons) will need to discuss their options with the Course Coordinator in the first instance. Continued placement at a provider may be discontinued at the placement providers option where you are unable to meet their requirements.

Queensland Health remains committed to supporting student placements. However, a Queensland Health directive has been issued: *that all clinicians including students be mask fit tested for Particulate Filtration Respirators (PFR or P2/N95 masks) and the wearing of such masks*. This means that all students attending placement at Queensland Health facilities and private acute health facilities are required to be fit tested for P2/N95 mask prior to commencement.

What is Fit Testing?

Fit testing is a test undertaken to ensure the fit (i.e. adequate face seal is achieved between the face piece of the respirator and the face of the wearer) of an appropriate mask to protect workers from respiratory /airborne infectious agents.

How Do I get Fit Tested?

There are two options for Mask Fitting.

1. TAFE Queensland will arrange for annual fit testing during their Sim Lab sessions; or
2. You can arrange this in your own time as follows:
 - You will need to call TruHealth on 1300 062 975 and make a booking for a Mask Fit Test.
 - Please identify yourself as TAFE Queensland Student and which placement facility that you will be attending, as facilities may stipulate specific masks, TruHealth have a list of facility preferences.
 - Please have your TAFE Queensland student ID ready in order to confirm your booking.
 - TruHealth Solutions will issue a certificate of compliance for the Mask Fit Test which you must keep for your records and present at placement.

You will be instructed to submit your evidence into the Learning Management System called CONNECT. Further details will be provided to you at that time.

TAFE Queensland will be invoiced for your fit testing. **Students are not required to pay.**

Mask Fitting Resources

- Infection Control Expert Group - [Guidance on the use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) for health care workers in the context of COVID-19](#)
- [How to put on a P2/N95 mask](#)
- [Facial Injury and Respiratory Protective Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Facial Hairstyles and Filtering Facepiece Respirators](#) – refer to the PDF on this page

Department of Health and Aged Care

[Contact details and websites](#) of the local state and territory health departments.