

How should I schedule my fit tests?

Book fit test appointments in advance and provide the workers with *What to Expect at Your Fit Test* handout. This will help to ensure that the workers are properly prepared for the fit test. You can download the handout from the course resources.

It is best to fit test people individually so that they are not distracted by other people in the room. This is also advisable during the pandemic, to avoid gathering people in groups. Each test takes 20-40 minutes depending on whether the person passes the first time. Time slots help avoid people waiting around.

Should I use the bitter or sweet solution?

The choice of bitter or sweet is a matter of individual preference. We suggest you have both on hand, so you have an alternative in case someone cannot taste one of them. It is very unusual for someone to be unable to taste neither solution.

How much solution should I put in the nebulizer?

A teaspoon (4cc) is often enough to test 10 people. A quarter teaspoon (1cc) is enough for one person.

What extra precautions should I take for COVID-19?

- Before anything else, ask the worker if they are feeling ill or have been in contact with anyone else who has been ill. If they answer yes, reschedule the fit test for another time.
- As the fit tester, you should wear a mask during the entire fit test.
- Wash your hands before and after each fit test.
- Have the worker wash their hands before and after the fit test.
- Wipe down the nebulizers between tests.
- If you are using the rainbow passage, laminate it. This way it can be wiped down between fit tests. Alternatively, have the worker count to 100 instead of using the rainbow passage.

Where can I order supplies or replacement parts for my Fit Testing Kit?

Typically, you should be able to order supplies and replacement parts through the company that provided your fit testing kit. If you do not know who the supplier was, or they are unavailable or out of stock, try the Fit Test Kit Suppliers listed on the [SafeCare BC Alternate Suppliers website](#).

Am I responsible for checking that workers I have fit tested are using their respirators properly?

As a fit tester, it is your responsibility to confirm that the workers you fit test know how to don, seal check, wear, and doff their respirator properly. Once the worker is using the respirator in the workplace it is ultimately up to that worker and their supervisor/employer to ensure continued compliance with their respirator use training. Your employer may ask you to do periodic check-ins with the workers to see if they are using the respirators properly and/or are having any problems, but that should be determined and discussed as part of your organization's respiratory protection program.

How often do I have to be re-certified as a fit tester?

The certificate you receive after completing the SafeCare BC Qualitative Fit Tester Training expires one year from the date it is issued. You can maintain renew your certificate annually by completing the Qualitative Fit Tester Training Refresher.

During the Sensitivity Test, the worker does not taste/smell the solution after 30 squeezes.

Check that your nebulizer has solution in it and that it is working properly. If there is solution inside but no mist is coming out when you squeeze it, it may be necessary to take the nebulizer apart and clean it. Crystallized solution can build up and clog the passages inside the jet.

If you find that the nebulizer is working properly, it may be that the worker cannot sense the type of solution you are using. In this case, try using a different solution.

During the Fit Test, the worker tastes/smells the test agent.

If at any time during the fit test the worker can taste or smell the test agent, you must stop the fit test and mark it as a failed test. This demonstrates that the facepiece has not sealed properly to the worker's face. To try to achieve an acceptable fit, the following can be considered:

- Check for interference by hair, jewelry, and eyewear.
- Look for creases in the respirator seal that may create leaks.
- Examine the edges of the respirator seal (particularly the bottom while the worker looks up and the nose bridge while the worker looks down) to see if there are any obvious leakages areas in the seal. Reposition the facepiece if you see that the facepiece is not positioned properly.

I noticed my nebulizer is not producing a mist. What should I do?

1. Make sure both white plugs are removed from the nebulizer openings.
2. Make sure the question-mark-shaped insert is present in the nebulizer reservoir and is pushed down as far as possible on the stem.
3. Verify that the black O-ring is present in the reservoir.
4. The sweet solutions can crystallize on certain parts of the nebulizer, which can impact aerosol generation. Even if you wash your nebulizers frequently, crystals can remain in the two narrow tubes in the nebulizer. Use the small, curled wire that came with your fit test kit to clear the narrow tubes of any crystals.