



T R A C I E
HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION GATEWAY

Access the entire webinar series here:

<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/aspr-tracie-healthcare-system-preparedness-considerations-speaker-series-summary.pdf>

Access speaker bio here:

<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/speaker-series---emerald-coast-fit-testing---speaker-bio.pdf>

Access the recording here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6453882990775175942>

Healthcare System Preparedness Considerations- Speaker Series

July 2022

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Fit Testing....UGH

WHAT IS FIT TESTING? WHAT IS MANDATORY?

- A respirator fit test checks whether a respirator properly fits the face of someone who wears it. The fitting characteristic of a respirator is the ability of the mask to separate a worker's respiratory system from ambient air.
- Fit testing uses a test agent, either qualitatively detected by the wearer's sense of taste, smell, or involuntary cough (irritant smoke) or quantitatively measured by an instrument, to verify the respirator's fit.
- For what is mandatory, refer to OSHA regulations, Appendix A to § 1910.134 - Fit Testing Procedures (Mandatory) Part I. OSHA-Accepted Fit Test Protocols

Who, What, When.....How

- Who we are: Emerald Coast Healthcare Coalition covers 10 counties in Northwest Florida
- What we do: We provide preparedness training for our HCC partners
- When: Anytime, anywhere

How did we Start in Fit Testing?

- As we know, the COVID-19 pandemic started in early 2020. We had a supply of expired N95 respirators in our warehouse when there were no supplies available.
- We conducted a fit testing training with the expired respirators and they still worked.
- Distributions started until state or federal supplies could come in. Along with the distributions, came the discussion that agencies needed their staff fit tested and so it began.....

HCC Role

- We have a staff of 15 trained fit testers who responded to the calls or emails for fit testing. County Health Departments spread the word that the coalition would do fit testing for any healthcare agency.
- We fit tested staff from AHCA, nursing homes, rehab facilities, small hospitals, dialysis centers, surgery centers, and more.
- We then provided a train the trainer class to teach agency personnel how to fit test their staff and what the requirements are for proper fit testing.

Lessons Learned and Ongoing Challenges

- A respirator can't protect you fully if it doesn't fit your face. It's that simple. A fit test is a test protocol conducted to verify that a respirator is both comfortable and correctly fits the user.
- Most agencies must fit test their staff once a year, some more.
- Some staff may fail or need a smaller respirator and then need to schedule a new date for fit testing.
- There are many suppliers now with N95 or other respirators but supply chain shortages have affected these life saving equipment from always being available.

More Information

- Many healthcare coalitions offer fit testing but in addition you can reach out to County Department of Health agencies, AHCA, or any regulatory agency for more information.
- Free information is available on the OSHA website:
<https://www.osha.gov/respiratory-protection>

THANK YOU

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