

Metro North Fit Testing

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The following Fit Testing FAQs have been developed in response to staff feedback received on the Metro North fit testing staff feedback portal and consultation with fit testing service staff.

Q1. What if my fit tested mask isn't available when I start my shift?

Please contact your local Shift Coordinator, Nurse Duty Manager, or other Line Manager for stock before working clinically.

Q2. How do I organise fit testing for my staff member before they return from leave?

Site specific fit testing service hours of operation, location, contact and booking information is available on the [Metro North Fit Testing Schedule Webpage](#). Staff who work in high-risk areas are scheduled for priority fit testing. If you have concerns around staff access to fit testing bookings, please discuss this with your local fit testing service. If this does not resolve your concerns, please escalate the matter to your local Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

Q3. I'm fit tested to a mask that is on the restricted list but can't get an appointment before my shift. Are there urgent appointments available?

Yes, priority appointments are available for staff who work in high-risk areas. Metro North is currently increasing our capacity to offer more timely appointments for those staff who have direct patient contact and therefore require fit testing. In the interim, some identified work areas will have priority bookings for the safety of both staff and patients.

Q4. I have been waiting in line to book an appointment. Can't appointments be booked online?

Some Metro North sites already have online booking services available, whilst others are taking a more personalised approach to booking in the interim, to ensure staff who work in high-risk areas are prioritised. Site specific booking information is available on the [Metro North Fit Testing Schedule Webpage](#). If you have concerns, please raise this with you Line Manager or local EOC.

Q5. I can't get an appointment until the end of February. Is there a priority list for bookings?

Yes, priority bookings are available for staff who work in high-risk areas. Please refer to Question 3.

Q6. I have my beard for religious reasons. Can I be exempted from shaving my beard?

An adequate seal may be difficult to achieve for people with facial hair and it is a requirement that there is no hair growth between the skin and facepiece sealing the surface in order to achieve a fit. AS/NZS 1715:2009 provides guidance in relation to beards, moustaches, sideburns, stubble growth and long hair and this is further detailed in the MNHHS guide for facial hair and fit testing.

If you are unable to comply with the respiratory protection requirements for personal, cultural, or religious reasons, you need to discuss this with your Line Manager. There may be options available to you and this depends on your personal situation.

Q7. I have had a fit test at a facility outside of Metro North. Do I need to be re-fit tested? Can this information be added to my training records?

If your current fit test was performed within the last 12 months and you have evidence from your previous facility, this can be uploaded to the TMS.

Please send your evidence along with your full name, staff ID, facility, department and email address to: MNHHSFitTestingProgram@health.qld.gov.au.

Q8. What do I do if I am unable to find a mask that fits?

Fit Testers are available on site at all Metro North hospitals and within the Community and Oral Health directorates to assist you. If you have not been successful in a fit the first time you are tested, we will ask you to come back to have another fit test. Please contact your local fit testing service for further advice.

Q9. I have had my fit test but it's not appearing in TMS. What do I do?

Your Line Manager can update your record and result of your Fit Test in TMS. There is sometimes a delay in information reported in TMS, which may explain this if you have been recently fit tested. Please discuss concerns with your Line Manager.

Q10. Can I wear a N95 if I have only done a fit check?

The [National Guideline](#), referenced in the [Queensland Health Guideline](#), recommends that you do a fit check every time you don an N95 mask to ensure you have a good seal. In an emergent situation, if your fitted mask cannot be located, please escalate to your team leader/hospital coordinator. A fit checked P2/N95 can be worn, as a last resort, until you are fit tested. You should not participate in aerosol generating procedures if you are not wearing a fit tested mask.