



**Diagnostic
Accreditation
Program**

DAP Accreditation Standards- Infection Control

After receiving several inquiries, the DAP has sought clarification from WorkSafe BC regarding OH&S regulations for N95 fit testing.

WorkSafe BC has indicated that the requirement for using respiratory protection (N95 masks and fit testing) is determined based upon the potential risk to which staff will be exposed to infectious biological agents. WorkSafe BC advises that facilities should perform a Risk Assessment to determine the appropriate protective measures to be implemented to address infection control in their facility. This Assessment should consider the patient population served and the reasonability of anticipated contact by staff with infectious biological agents. If there is a risk of contact with infectious agents, an Exposure Control Plan should be developed. For some facilities this Plan may include the requirement for respiratory protection that covers N95 respirators (masks) and fit testing.

Having received this clarification from WorkSafe BC, it is possible that the DAP mandatory safety requirement regarding N95 fit testing may not be applicable to all facilities. In order to determine if this mandatory requirement applies to your facility, the DAP is recommending facilities take the following actions:

- Public health authority facilities should work with their OH&S and Infection Control programs to conduct a Risk Assessment and Exposure Control Plan (as necessary).
- Private community based facilities should conduct a Risk Assessment and Exposure Control Plan (as necessary) utilizing WorkSafe BC as a resource.

You are encouraged to contact the WorkSafe BC website for additional information, or to contact a WorkSafe BC Occupational Hygiene Officer to discuss the specific infection control requirements for your facility.