



**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION POLICY
FOR
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LAWRENCE S. BLOOMBERG FACULTY
OF NURSING LEARNERS*
("Mask-Fit Policy")**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of Faculty of Nursing learners, patients, and health care agency staff by ensuring that all learners comply with Occupational Diseases Surveillance Policies and other related policies in effect at their clinical practicum sites, as well as the Government of Ontario Ministry of Labour orders issued under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, including the use of N95 respirators.

2. APPLICATION

This policy applies to all Faculty of Nursing **learners** (Undergraduate and Graduate students with the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing) in clinical practicum sites.

Most clinical placement sites affiliated with the University of Toronto Faculty of Nursing have respiratory protection policies and procedures to follow when at risk of exposure to airborne infectious agents. Faculty of Nursing learners must comply with these policies and procedures.

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Learners must comply with their clinical placement agency site's respiratory protection policies. As part of securing a 'Student Preparedness Permit', each learner must be individually fitted to determine which brands of N95 masks provide adequate protection against airborne particles. This may require the removal of facial hair to allow for an adequate mask-to-face seal. Mask fit testing must be updated every 2 years or when facial characteristics change due to weight gain/loss or facial trauma.

Learners are also required to be immune to vaccine preventable airborne infectious agents such as measles and varicella. Evidence of each learner's mask fit testing as well as their immunization status related to vaccine preventable airborne infectious agents (as well as other preparedness information) are requirements to be met prior to the start of each academic year. If requested by a clinical agency in which a learner is completing a clinical practicum, the learner must provide evidence of mask fit testing and immunization to the health care agency Occupational Health

Office staff to allow them to view and input learner respirator-fit information, as required.

4. ACCOMMODATION

Learners who cannot wear, or be fitted for, an N95 mask appropriately due to medical, religious or other valid reason should immediately notify their Program Director and the Clinical Education Office Director of their inability to do so and request accommodation. The learner must complete and submit the *N95/Respirator Mask Fit: Accommodation Form*. The Program Director and the Clinical Education Office Director will confer with the relevant health care agency representative(s) to examine whether suitable alternative arrangements can be made consistent with the accommodation requirement. Practicum placement agencies may exercise their right not to accept a student who does not meet their Occupational Health and Safety policies for learners.

Note: This policy has been adapted from the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine Policy: *Respiratory Protection Policy and Procedures (2009)*