

Greetings!

We were delighted to fit you and/or your colleagues with respirators last year as the dental profession prepared for its return to work mid pandemic and we thank you for choosing Devonshire House. As qualified fit testers we are contacting you to offer some further guidance regarding maintenance and refits.

How often should mask fits be retested?

Although there is no stipulated frequency for mask fit retesting, ***we recommend that face fit tests are carried out on an annual basis.*** The certificate and fit test record we sent you following your fit test(s) at Devonshire House state the date of your fit test and details of the respirator.

Additional circumstances requiring a refit test

A reminder that a fit test should be repeated whenever there is a change of circumstances of the wearer that could alter the fit for example if:

- The user has had major dental work carried out.
- The user has received a significant facial injury that may reduce the sealing capability of the mask.
- The user has new facial piercings around the face seal area.
- The user has gained/lost more than 10% of their body weight.
- The user is issued with a different brand of disposable/reusable mask.

A reminder about filters

As HSE guidelines advise, ***we recommend that you do a maintenance check on your respirator & change your filters every 28 days***, with the first day being when you initially use the facemask. This is if you have worn your mask daily for 8 or more hours. Maintenance check and filter replacement dates should be recorded and updated accordingly.

Maintenance and cleaning advice

- After every use, we recommend wiping down your face piece with an antibacterial or alcohol wipe to keep it clean and fresh. Wipes can be used on the outside but not too wet to avoid damaging the filters.
- For the inside, use face wipes to remove any make up. You could also use witch hazel on the inside surface and to also clean your face with.
- If you take the masks and remove the filters you can soak them in a Milton solution and then leave to air dry, but do not use bleach as this can cause sensitivity to the face.
- Masks can be stored in sealed bags as long as they are being thoroughly

cleaned and dried or replaced on a regular basis to stop bacterial growth.

General advice

- Facial hair, stubble and beards make it impossible to get a good seal of the mask to the face.
- A reminder that masks should not be shared.

We wish you and your colleagues well during this difficult time and if we can be of any further advice please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Wail, Rosie, Maria and Janice

Devonshire House Qualified Fit Test Operators

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