

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Addressing Fit Testing Solution Shortage with Pharmacy-Compounded Solution



Audience: Colleague/Occupational Health professionals, Pharmacy, Logistics, Colleagues Wearing Fit-Tested Respirators

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Situation

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, colleague safety remains a priority. As per the [PPE Guidebook](#), colleagues must continue to complete fit testing at least annually, as well as in the other situations described in the book. In order to conserve supply of respirators, especially N95 or equivalent respirators, Trinity Health has asked ministries to convert to **qualitative** (non-destructive) fit testing where possible. **Quantitative** (destructive) fit testing destroys the respirator during the test, whereas qualitative (non-destructive) protocols allow the user to conserve the respirator for future use.

One potential barrier to ministries using qualitative (non-destructive) fit testing has been a reported shortage of the solution used to verify the respirator fit. To increase access to the solution and allow health care providers to meet fit testing requirements, OSHA has made formulas for preparing qualitative fit testing solution available on their website.

Recommendation

Ministries that wish to convert to qualitative fit testing but experience barriers in obtaining fit test solution may have the solution compounded within their pharmacies. **Ministries must not deviate from the formulation or the method detailed by OSHA [here](#).**