

DEPARTMENT: Infection Control

POLICY: IC -370

SUBJECT: Airborne pathogen respiratory protection

PURPOSE: To provide protection for staff members from airborne respiratory pathogens.

RESPONSIBILITY:

- EOC (environment of care) Committee
- Infection Control Practitioner (ICP)
- Employee Health Nurse

POLICY:

1. In the event of a risk or anticipated risk of an airborne pathogen exposure (see policy IC-344 Communicable Disease precautions for examples of pathogens), staff will don PAPRs (Powered Air Purifying Respirators) that utilize an N95 filter. Staff who have the potential to come into contact with the patient or source of the airborne pathogen will utilize the PAPR.
2. The PAPRs are stored in the nursing storage area, as well as in the emergency supply area in the basement.
3. The PAPRs will be maintained per the manufacturer's recommendation.
4. PAPR training will be given during employee orientation and as needed per department.
5. In the cases where prolonged airborne protection is required, fit testing of appropriate staff will be conducted utilizing the Porta Count Pro 8030 fit testing machine and disposable N95 masks.
6. The members of the fit testing team include:
 - a. Director of Respiratory Therapy
 - b. Safety Officer
7. Medical screening is done according to Employee Health Policy EH-860.

PROCEDURE:

1. For fit testing using the Porta Count Pro 8030 (for use of disposable N95 masks):
 - a. The procedure for fit-testing was supplied by the manufacturer, resides in the black binder labeled "fit testing manual" and will remain with the fit testing machine.
 - b. Fit testing will be performed according to manufacturer's recommendations, to ensure that specifications and preset parameters for quantitative fit testing are met.
 - c. The medical screening questionnaire is referenced prior to fit-testing for any employee.
 - d. Blank forms for documentation of fit-testing and results are kept with the machine and are given to the EHN to keep in the employee's health file once completed.
2. The Porta Count Pro 8030 is stored in the Respiratory Therapy Office on the inpatient wing.
3. Disposable N95 Masks can be obtained through purchasing for departmental use, or if for use with a specific patient, the mask will be stored outside of room with other personal protective supplies.

REVIEW AND REVISION STATEMENT:

This policy will be reviewed and revised as necessary and at least annually by the Infection Control Practitioner, Safety Officer, Physician Advisor, CEO, and an FNP.
(original document (02/2012))