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| **Question** | **Answer** |
| 1. Why is RPE is needed | To protect you from breathing in small airborne particles which might contain pathogens, particularly during aerosol generating procedures. |
| 1. How does RPE work | By creating a seal between your face and the FFP3 Respirator, the air goes through the material of the Respirator which filters out the airborne contaminant. |
| 1. Why is fit testing required | It is a legal requirement that you are fit tested if you require to wear an FFP3 mask. This is to prevent you from being exposed to pathogens, by ensuring an adequate seal between the respirator and your face. |
| 1. What RPE is being provided | NHSGGC provides FFP3 Respirators with an assigned protection factor of 20. You will be fit tested normally to the Alpha Solway 3030v. If an effective seal is not obtained you will be fitted to the 3M 1863+ |
| 1. How to wear and check the RPE correctly | Position the upper headband on the crown of your head, above the ears. Position the lower strap at the back of your head below your ears. Ensure the respirator is flat against your cheeks. For the 3M 1865+ , mould the nosepiece across the bridge of your nose, firmly pressing down to get a good fit, this is not required for the Alpha Solway as it is pre-moulded. |
| 1. How to Fit Check prior to use | After fitting, cover the front of the mask with both hands and for a respirator with a valve inhale sharply or a respirator without a valve exhale sharply. If air flows around the nose, adjust the nosepiece. If air flows around the edges of the mask, adjust the headbands and recheck. |
| 1. How to report / tackle any problems | If a tight seal is not obtained during the pre use check, this must be reported to your manager and / or local Fit Tester. |
| 1. Where to put on and take off the RPE | FFP3 Respirators should be put on and taken off outside of the patients room / isolation cohort area. |
| 1. Where / how it should be cleaned and stored | All FFP3 Respirators in use in NHSGGC are single use only and must be disposed of after use through the clinical waste stream. |
| 1. Employee / employer responsibilities | Employees must ensure they have been fit tested prior to wearing an FFP3 Respirator and comply with the guidance on use for the type they are using.  Employers must ensure, through the risk assessment process, that areas with staff who will require to wear FFP3 Respirators have been fit tested. Records of Fit Testing must be kept and retained for 5 years. |
| 1. Use and misuse of RPE | FFP3 Respirators must be used as per the manufacturer instructions and the instructions provided during your Fit Test. FFP3 Respirators must only be used if you have been Fit Tested to that particular make and model of Respirator. |
| 1. What are the hazards, risks and effects of exposure | Inappropriate or non use of an FFP3 Respirator may result in exposure to airborne biological agents, including, Tuberculosis and Influenza |

**Additional Information can be found on HRConnect (**[**Link**](https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/working-with-us/hr-connect/health-safety/policies-guidance-documents-forms/personal-protective-equipment/)**), a local Face fit tester**

**or through the Health and Safety Service**