

The COVID Clinical Response Committee (CCRC) has been asked to address an issue raised as a risk during acute resuscitations with the introduction of half-piece mask respirators.

- 1. Where the point-of-care risk assessment indicates an N95 is required (e.g. a patient with COVID infection undergoing a continuous aerosol-generating medical procedure such as high-flow nasal cannula), we recommend continued use of the fit-tested half-piece mask respirators (HPMR) in place of a fit-tested N95 when providing care for patients.**
- 2. During acute resuscitations, communication between team members is paramount. In these situations, where possible we recommend the use of mask-fit tested N95 as opposed to HPMR to improve communication.**
- 3. This does not apply to routine elective intubation of patients in a controlled setting (e.g. the operating room).**
- 4. If an individual's N95 size is not available, the fit tested HPMR should be used rather than a non-mask fit-tested N95.**
- 5. The current supply is sufficient to support this recommendation.**

This decision will be revisited as alternate communication strategies evolve.

Rationale

1. Fit-tested half-piece mask respirators have been introduced to reduce N95 consumption.
2. We acknowledge there are significant concerns around clear communication between team members while wearing HPMR. This has been identified by multidisciplinary individuals.
3. In situations where immediate communication between team members is critical, the HPMR presents an impediment.
4. Any fit-tested mask is preferred over a non-fit tested mask. Where the appropriate fit-tested mask is not available, accommodations for communication while wearing an HPMR are possible.