

Facial Hair Guidelines for N-95 Respirator Fit-Testing and Use

OSHA does not permit the use of respirators with tight-fitting facepieces to be worn by individuals with facial hair. Facial hair between the skin and face seal of the respirator will interfere with the seal of the respirator. Individuals with mustaches and short goatees that do not interfere with the seal of the respirator can be fit tested and wear a respirator.

Facial hair can impact the effectiveness of the face seal. If you have facial hair, please note that a fit-test **CANNOT** be performed if:

- you have a beard
- you have a goatee or moustache that extends past the seal of the N-95
- you have more than one day's hair growth on your face

Tips for those with facial hair:

- shave the morning of the fit-test
- continue to shave daily while you are required to wear an N-95 respirator
- if you have a goatee or moustache and are fit-tested, keep your goatee or moustache trimmed to assure that it does not impact the seal

The picture below shows a person wearing the N-95 respirator. You can see what portion of the face that the respirator will cover.



The pictures below are examples of facial hair that would interfere with the face seal:



The two pictures below show examples of facial hair that should not interfere with the face seal:



According to OSHA, 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(1)(i)(A), an employer shall not permit respirators with tight-fitting facepieces to be worn by employees who have:

- Facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face or that interferes with valve function; and/or
- Any condition that interferes with the face-to-facepiece seal or valve function.

To access the entire OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard, please use the following link: [OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard](#)

Please contact Student Health Services regarding any questions about this issue. **Per the requirements of the standard, individuals that are not clean shaven on the day of the training will not be fit tested.**