



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



Instructions for fitting Elastomeric Half-Facepiece Respirator (EHFR) that does not have an exhalation valve filter

Follow the instruction below each time you wear an EHFR respirator.

Inspection and assembly

- Perform hand hygiene.
- Grab your size of respirator, a pair of P100 filters and check the expiry date.
- Check facepiece for cracks, tears, dirt and distortion.
- Make sure that head straps are intact and have good elasticity.
- Examine inhalation and exhalation valves for signs of distortion, cracking and tearing. Ensure the valves are properly in place.

Apply mask



- Apply **procedure mask** (pediatric medical mask* if available to provide a more snug fit) to the EHFR, cover the exhalation port and place ear loops around the filters.
- Adjust procedure mask as needed. Ensure the mask, including ear loops, will not interfere with the seal between the respirator and your face.

** If a pediatric mask is not available, you may use an adult procedure mask to cover the port.*

Don the respirator



1. Place respirator over mouth and nose then pull head harness over the crown of your head.



2. Take bottom straps in both hands, place them at the back of your neck and hook them together.



3. Position facepiece low on the bridge of your nose for optimal visibility and best fit.



4. Adjust top straps first, then lower the neck straps by pulling on the ends. **Do not** pull too tight.



Positive pressure seal check

1. Ensure procedure mask and its ear loops do not interfere with the tight seal.
2. Place the palm of your hand over the mask, press to block exhalation valve cover and exhale gently. If facepiece bulges slightly and no air leaks are detected between your face and the facepiece, proceed to negative pressure seal check.
3. If you detect face seal air leakage, reposition the respirator on your face and/or readjust tension of the elastic straps to end the leakage.
4. Repeat above steps until you have a good face seal.



Negative pressure seal check

1. Press on the outside surface of the filter, squeeze filter covers with your hand towards the facepiece to restrict airflow into the breathing tube of filters and inhale gently (ensuring not to apply too much pressure that you deform the mask). If you feel the facepiece collapse slightly and pull closer to your face with no leaks between your face and the facepiece, a proper fit has been obtained.
2. If you detect face seal air leakage, reposition respirator on your face and/or readjust tension of straps to end the leakage.
3. Repeat both positive and negative seal checks until you have a tight seal.

If you cannot achieve a proper seal, do not enter the contaminated area. See your supervisor.

Doff the respirator

The respirator is generally the last piece of personal protective equipment to doff. You should doff your EHFR in a clean space such as anteroom or hallway.

1. Perform hand hygiene.
2. Unhook lower straps from base of neck.
3. Gently pull head harness and remove it over the head. Avoid touching the surface of procedure mask.
4. Unloop the procedure mask and dispose.
5. Perform hand hygiene.
6. Clean or place the EHFR for reprocessing following health authority protocols.

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