

Qualitative Fit Test Kit Options

To conduct your own qualitative N95 respirator fit tests, you will need a fit test kit with either bitter or sweet solution. A complete kit has two nebulizers, a set of testing solutions (sensitivity and fit test solutions), and a hood. One manufacturer has a collar to support the hood in their kit. Each item in a fit test kit can be purchased separately.

Fit Test Solutions

The N95 qualitative fit test relies on a person's sense of taste. There are two types of solutions that are safe and non-toxic solutions for this method of fit testing: bitter or sweet. Each type of solution has a lower concentration solution (the sensitivity solution), and a higher concentration solution (the fit test solution). Both concentrations are needed to conduct a fit test.

- The bitter solution tends to be more successfully detected compared to the sweet solution, especially after a COVID-19 illness
- The sweet solution tends to clog the nebulizer more often than the bitter solution

The solutions come in small bottles or in ampules. One ampule will provide approximately three fit tests.



Hoods

There are two general types of hoods in the marketplace. One type has a collar and the other does not. The hood without a collar takes less space to store while not in use. The hood with the collar makes the space inside the hood feel more spacious when wearing it.



- Feels more spacious
- Better airflow for drying



- Likely to be less expensive

Finding A Fit Test Kit

Use your favorite internet search engine to search the terms "qualitative fit test kit". It will bring up a selection of kits. Be sure to purchase a kit from a reputable company. Common fit test kit manufacturers we have seen are 3M, Allegro, Moldex, and Honeywell.