



ALL DEPARTMENTS/PROGRAMS
ELASTOMERIC HALF FACE RESPIRATOR USE - PROCEDURE
 May 18, 2021

<p>What's New?</p>	<p>The PHSA Mask Use in Health Care Facilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic published on November 6th, 2020 has been revised and now includes information on use of respirators with unfiltered exhalation values (e.g., elastomeric masks) and the removal of the section on Long Term Care and Assisted Living facilities as PHSA programs do not include these areas.</p>
<p>Why?</p>	<p>Elastomeric Half Face Respirators protect the wearer and do not protect the patient from exhaled pathogens. To align with the revised mask policy the exhalation valve must be covered with a medical mask for staff providing direct patient care and/or working in sterile environments.</p>
<p>How does this affect my practice?</p>	<p>Staff providing direct patient care and/or working in sterile environments using elastomeric masks must don a medical mask on top of the elastomeric mask. The medical mask must be changed between each patient or every 4 hours if one patient interaction is over 4 hours. It must be changed if the medical mask is noted to be contaminated or damaged.</p>
<p>How do I find out more?</p>	<p>Contact CW Infection Prevention and Control Email Infection Prevention and Control at IPACS@cw.bc.ca and/or phone the CW IPAC @ local 6135.</p>