

COVID-19 PPE and Facial Hair 4.27.2020 1030

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The PPE Integrated Workgroup recommends for those working in at-risk areas to consider shaving. Recommendation apply to individuals who do not have a strong cultural or religious reason for facial hair. The presence of facial hair compromises the ability of the mask to fully protect you:

- Certain facial hair, stubble, mustaches and beards – make it impossible to get a good seal of a mask to the face.
- Respirators rely on a good seal against the face so when you breathe air in it is drawn into the filter material where the air is cleaned.
- If there are gaps around the edges of the mask, 'dirty' air will pass through these gaps and into your lungs.
- Traditionally, other styles of respirators have been available for team members with facial hair that need protection, but **due to COVID-19, the PAPR/ CAPR and their filters are in short supply.**

Team members can schedule a fit testing appointment by calling the Employee Health Event Team Hotline at 616.486.5544 or 1.877.548.3871 or email the Employee Health Services Event Team at healthassessments@spectrumhealth.org.

The CDC recommends the following facial hair styles:

