On August 1, the New Haven Dental Association (NHDA) successfully offered N95 fit tests to its member dentists and their clinical staff. The idea was first thought of by Dr. Mark Ryan, President of the NHDA, and Dr. Allison Baylis, active NHDA member who also serves on the CSDA Council of Legislation. A quick online survey revealed that many member dentists would appreciate this service. Dr. Ryan acquired the hood and testing solutions and graciously offered to host the event at his practice. Three volunteers, Dr. Jennifer You, District IV Board of Governors, Dr. Bruce Cha, active NHDA member, and Dr. Nicole Becker, NHDA Treasurer, assisted Dr. Ryan during the event. Twenty-three individuals were tested and some brought multiple models of N95s and KN95s, which were tested as well. The event ran smoothly and we believe it offered a valuable service to our members. With the success of the NHDA fit test, we highly recommend other component societies consider offering this service. The hood may be loaned out, but we ask that each component society purchase the necessary sensitivity and testing solutions. Should your component society be interested in offering this service, please reach out to Dr. Mark Ryan, NHDA President, as he can provide you with additional guidance in this matter, if needed. Dr. Ryan can be reached via email at mark.ryan@sbcglobal.net.

Detailed description of the event:

1. **Signing up:** Members selected 15 minute appointment slots per 3 individuals to be tested. The NHDA used the [appoint.ly](https://appoint.ly) website to do the scheduling.
2. **Prior to entering the office:** Each individual completed the ADA COVID-19 Screening form along with a temperature check.
3. **Sensitivity test:** Throughout all tests, individuals were given safety glasses. A sensitivity test was first performed on each individual with the hood in place and no mask in order to determine that the individual could detect the bitter solution. Some individuals required additional sprays of the solution in order to detect it. The same number of sprays would be administered during the fit test for those individuals. Two individuals were unable to detect the bitter solution, so we recommend purchasing both the bitter and sweet solutions to have both options available.
4. **Fit test:** This next step was only performed on those who were able to detect the bitter solution during the sensitivity test. Time was given for those individuals to no longer detect the smell or taste, and they were then asked to don their respirator. The hood was placed over the individual and the testing solution was administered. Individuals were instructed to take normal breaths, deep breaths, shake and nod their head, recite the ABCs, bow their head to their knees, and take a few normal breaths again. If an individual did not detect the solution after these movements the respirator passed the fit test. Otherwise, the respirator failed.
5. **Infection control:** The safety glasses, chairs and commonly touched material were wiped down between uses with a disinfectant wipe. The hood was wiped down with an alcohol pad between uses.

6. **Paperwork:** A corresponding form was then completed to indicate if the tested respirator passed or failed. Individuals who could not detect the sensitivity solution were given a "N/A - unable to test as the individual is unable to detect the bitter sensitivity solution." A copy of the form was made and provided to the individual with the original kept with the society.

7. Although the NHDA hood is not from 3M, this YouTube video accurately demonstrates the procedure: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xI4qX6qEYXU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xI4qX6qEYXU)