

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



COVID-19: Updated Guidance for Resuming CPAT Testing

This guidance is designed to assist affiliates, fire departments and testing facilities in resuming the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) as communities begin to reopen.

Due to the potential for occupational exposures during CPAT, the IAFF recommends a cautious approach when resuming CPAT. Reference and follow state, provincial and local health guidance at all times.

ALL PHASES:

- Practice social distancing (maintain 6 feet of separation when possible) and avoid congregating in common areas at CPAT testing sites. The CDC now defines a close contact as exposure within 6 feet of an infected individual for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. The CDC also identified that the determination of close contact should generally be made regardless of whether the contact was wearing a surgical or cloth facemask.
- CPAT proctors and staff should amplify their voice for candidates to hear instructions while on the CPAT course. Proctors and candidates should confirm their ability to hear one another before the test begins.
- CPAT proctors and staff should perform self-screening, including temperature checks twice daily. Seek medical advice if symptomatic for COVID-19 to determine if quarantine or isolation is needed.
- CPAT proctors and staff should wear a surgical mask (cloth mask if there is a shortage of surgical masks) at all times at the CPAT testing site.
- CPAT candidates should wear surgical or cloth masks while at the CPAT testing site but not during their actual CPAT test.
- CPAT candidates should wear surgical or cloth masks while in the post-CPAT rehab area after removing weight vest, helmet and gloves.
- CPAT proctors, staff and candidates should practice good hand washing and skin hygiene.
- CPAT testing sites should post hand-washing signs at all entrances and in restrooms.
- Properly disinfect all CPAT equipment using an EPA-approved disinfectant, including treadmill, hose line, saws, ladders, sledgehammer, interior of the maze, straps on rescue mannequin and pike pole. Other items to consider include phones, desks, computer keyboards, doorknobs, tables and other contact surfaces.
- Testing sites must be able to provide contact information in the event a proctor, staff member or candidate informs them of symptoms or an actual positive test. Contact information for proctors, staff and candidates is essential so that notifications can be made quickly to potentially exposed persons.

PHASE TWO:

Limit the number of CPAT candidates participating in mentorship, fitness training and CPAT orientation training to groups no larger than 10 persons in any given area while maintaining social distancing.

- CPAT proctors, staff and candidates involved in mentorship, fitness training and CPAT orientations should wear masks while maintaining social distancing.

PHASE THREE:

CPAT proctors, staff and candidates may resume public interactions but should continue practicing social distancing.