





# DIFFERENTIATING MASKS

	 <b>CLOTH MASKS</b>	 <b>FACE MASKS</b>	 <b>N95 RESPIRATOR</b>	 <b>KN95 RESPIRATOR</b>
<b>APPROVAL</b>	CDC recommends masks for everyone $\geq 2$ yo to stop the spread of COVID-19. Multilayer masks of breathable, washable fabric are recommended.	Cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug administration (FDA) to resist splashes of blood and other body fluids.	Evaluated, tested and approved by NIOSH as per the requirements in 42 CFR Part 84*.	Emergency Use Authorization is provided through the FDA. Links to all EUA-approved PPE are provided on the <a href="#">FDA Website</a> .
<b>INTENDED USE AND PURPOSE</b>	Intended to protect the wearer and others from the spread of COVID-19.	Stops large droplets from spreading and keeps splashes/sprays from reaching the nose/mouth of the wearer. Prevention of inhalation of small airborne contaminants is limited due to the lack of a tight fit on the face.	Reduces wearer's exposure to particles, including small particle aerosols and large droplets (only non-oil aerosols) offering protection from both airborne and body fluid contaminants.	Due to respirator shortages resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak, the FDA has authorized emergency use to prevent the wearer from exposure to pathogenic biological airborne particulates.
<b>FILTRATION</b>	Multilayer masks can block up to 50-70% of exhaled fine droplets and particles and limit the forward spread of those that are not captured. Multilayer masks with lower thread counts can also filter nearly 50% of inhaled fine particles for protection of the wearer. Efficacy is reduced in some cases by 60% if the mask has leaks.	<b>LEVEL 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used for low risk of fluid exposure</li> <li>Fluid resistance of 80 mmHg</li> <li>Bacterial &amp; particulate filtration <math>\geq 95\%</math></li> </ul> <b>LEVEL 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used for high risk of fluid exposure</li> <li>Fluid resistance of 160 mmHg</li> <li>Bacterial &amp; particulate filtration <math>\geq 98\%</math></li> </ul>	Filters out at least 95% of airborne particles, including large and small particles.	Review of the NIOSH International Assessment of non-NIOSH approved KN95 respirators shows variable filtration efficacy. Access filtration information for a specific respirator <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>USE LIMITATIONS</b>	<b>MASKS SHOULD COMPLETELY COVER YOUR NOSE AND MOUTH, FIT SNUGLY AGAINST THE SIDES OF YOUR FACE AND NOT GAP.</b>			
	Should be washed regularly with the warmest appropriate water setting, using regular laundry detergent.	Disposable. Discard after each patient encounter.	Ideally discarded after each patient encounter. Discard if it is damaged or deformed, no longer forms an effective seal, wet or visibly dirty, breathing becomes difficult, or it is contaminated with blood or body fluids.	Most of these products are ear loop design which make fit testing for healthcare workers a challenge. Use of these respirators will provide additional protection over cloth or medical masks. Follow the same discard instructions as N95 respirators.

## References:

CDC Reference Understanding the Difference Surgical Mask, N95 Respirator. Available [here](#). Accessed 1.29.2021  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19. Use Masks to slow the spread of COVID-19. Available [here](#). Accessed 1.29.2021  
U.S Department of Labor OSHA video 2009. The difference between respirators and surgical masks. Available [here](#). Accessed 2.2.201

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