



FACEMASK SAFETY



On **April 3**, the CDC announced its recommendation to wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

The CDC advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and prevent people who may unknowingly have the virus from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidelines.

It is important to recognize that the best way to prevent airborne transmission of this virus is to use a combination of methods, not rely solely on PPE. Wearing of these mask options should not relieve individuals from maintaining proper social distancing and staying away from work if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

CLOTH FACE MASKS

A cloth face mask is a covering designed as a barrier to reduce the spread of moisture droplets from the mouth or nose from one individual to another.

HOW TO WEAR

- 1) Should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- 2) Should be secured with ties or ear loops
- 3) Should include multiple layers of fabric
- 4) Should allow for breathing without restriction
- 5) Should be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape
- 6) Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing the face covering and should wash their hands immediately after removing
- 7) Should not be worn by children younger than 2 years of age, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove cover without assistance

PROPER CARE

- 1) They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use. Someone wearing a mask throughout an entire day should wash it every night
- 2) If a mask gets moist as a result of perspiration throughout the day, it should be replaced at least once a day
- 3) When removing the mask, it should be contained in a plastic sealable (Ziploc) bag with the employee-owner's name and not allowed to lay on a table or other surface that may contaminate that surface
- 4) A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a face covering



SURGICAL MASKS

A surgical mask is a loose-fitting, disposable device that creates a physical barrier between the mouth and nose of the wearer and potential contaminants in the immediate environment.



HOW TO WEAR

- 1) Should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- 2) Should be secured with ties or ear loops
- 3) Should allow for breathing without restriction
- 4) Should not be worn by children younger than 2 years of age, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove cover without assistance

PROPER CARE

- 1) Surgical masks are not intended to be used more than once
- 2) If mask is damaged or soiled, it should be replaced
- 3) If breathing through the mask becomes difficult, it should be replaced
- 4) Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing the mask and should wash their hands immediately after removing
- 5) Masks should be disposed of properly in a waste container with a plastic bag

N95 RESPIRATORS

An N95 respirator is a respiratory protective device designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles. Note that the edges of the respirator are designed to form a seal around the nose and mouth.

The “N95” designation means that when subjected to careful testing, the respirator blocks at least 95 percent of very small (0.3 micron) test particles. If properly fitted, the filtration capabilities of N95 respirators exceed those of face masks.

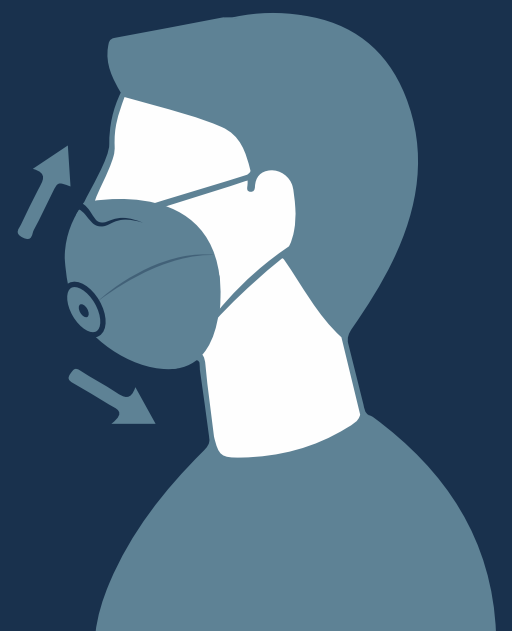
These are currently not available and are only being distributed to Health Care workers or other medical first responders as recommended by the CDC.

HOW TO WEAR

- 1) Each user should be fit tested with the respirator for a secure seal around the nose and mouth
- 2) Respirators cannot be worn effectively by individuals with facial hair because a secure fit is not possible
- 3) Should allow for breathing without restriction
- 4) Should not be worn by children younger than 2 years of age, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove cover without assistance

PROPER CARE

- 1) N95 respirators are “single-use” disposable devices
- 2) If respirator is damaged or soiled, it should be replaced
- 3) If breathing through the mask becomes difficult, it should be replaced
- 4) Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing the mask and should wash their hands immediately after removing
- 5) Respirators should be disposed of properly in a waste container with a plastic bag



RESOURCES

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/general-hospital-devices-and-supplies/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control>

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/04/health/how-to-make-your-own-mask-wellness-trnd/index.html>

<https://www.osha.gov/>

