

TYPES OF MASKS



N95 RESPIRATOR



N95 RESPIRATOR WITH VALVE



SURGICAL MASK



CLOTH FACE COVERING

	N95 RESPIRATOR	N95 RESPIRATOR WITH VALVE	SURGICAL MASK	CLOTH FACE COVERING
PURPOSE	To protect wearer and others.	To protect wearer and others.	To protect others. Surgical masks are not designed to protect the wearer. They do not filter out small particles and allow completely unfiltered air to enter along the edges. Still, there is evidence that some wearer protection can be expected.	To help lower the rate of spread in the community. Distancing, staying home when ill, and appropriate (not excessive) hand-washing are the most important measures of covid-19 spread reduction. Wearing face covering is considered an additional, supporting method.
CDC RECOMMENDATION	Not recommended for public use.	Not recommended for public use.	Not recommended for public use.	Recommended for public use.
IMPORTANT PROPERTIES	Tight fit. Seal check necessary. Large and small particles are removed (albeit not entirely so) from inhaled and exhaled air.	Tight fit. Seal check necessary. Large and small particles are removed (albeit not entirely so) from inhaled air only. A possible self-protecting alternative for people who cannot tolerate standard N95 respirators.	Loose fit. No seal check necessary. Smaller particles are not sufficiently removed. Droplets are held back. Edges do not seal tightly. Unfiltered air enters along the edges and is inhaled by the wearer.	Loose fit. No seal check necessary but you should aim for a snug fit. Materials and designs vary widely. General statements about particle removal are not possible.
REUSE	Reuse is not intended but possible.	Reuse is not intended but possible.	Reuse is not intended and strongly discouraged.	Reuse is intended and possible. Wash and dry after each use. As with other pieces of cloth worn close to the body, you should own and use more than one.
ARE THEY EFFECTIVE?	Yes, for intended purpose. Lowering of spread in the community could be achieved but there are not currently enough N95 devices available to recommend public use.	Yes, for intended purpose. Significant lowering of spread in the community unlikely because unfiltered air leaves through the valve.	Yes, for intended purpose. Lowering of spread in the community plausible but not yet substantiated by strong evidence.	Maybe, for intended purpose. Lowering of spread in the community is plausible but can only be achieved in conjunction with other measures. Personal protection possible but not yet substantiated by strong evidence.