

SUNY Office for Capital Facilities COVID Guidance: N95 Respirators vs Other Face Coverings (5/1/20)

N95 Respirators	Surgical Masks and Face Coverings (not respirators)
<p>Applies to N, R, and P/ 95, 99, and 100 versions. Also applies to N95 surgical masks, approved by both NIOSH and FDA. All will have NIOSH approval info printed on each mask. (Current temporary waivers allow use of some non-USA models as well.)</p>	<p>Includes the medical type masks, home sewn versions, through scarves and bandana. Surgical masks come in various levels of protection and are regulated by the FDA for healthcare uses.</p>
 <div data-bbox="163 886 474 1149" style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; color: red;"> <p>These protect workers by filtering all the air breathed in. They need to fit the face contours of the wearer.</p> </div>	 <div data-bbox="1633 412 1940 824" style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; color: red;"> <p>Some of these provide protection from sprays and splashes, especially in healthcare.</p> <p>For the public, they protected the environment from sprays of the wearer.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1180 1123 1852 1195" style="text-align: right;">  <a data-bbox="1612 1143 1852 1175" href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus" style="background-color: yellow; color: black; padding: 2px;">cdc.gov/coronavirus </div>
<p>These are respirators, designed to protect the wearer from inhaling small particles. They depend on close fit of the mask to the wearer's face, so that all the breathed air goes through the filter material.</p>	<p>These provide some minimal protection to the wearer but are primarily designed to prevent the spray of droplets from the wearer into the environment while the wearer talks, coughs, laughs, etc. There is no expectation of a particularly close fit and not fit test.</p>
<p>May be most appropriate for use by medical personnel and first responders.</p>	<p>Surgical masks may be appropriate for some healthcare applications. Lower level masks and other covering are encouraged for the general public.</p>

N95 Respirators	Masks and Face Coverings
<p>The use of respirators in the work place is addressed by OSHA's Respiratory Protection standard, 29 CFR 1910.134 https://www.osha.gov/lawsregs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134</p> <p>OSHA also has a small entity compliance guide: https://www.osha.gov/Publications/3384small-entity-for-respiratory-protectionstandard-rev.pdf</p>	<p>There are no OSHA regulations on wearing this sort of mask or face covering.</p> <p>Executive Order 202.17, issued on 4/15/20, provides the following directive: Effective at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2020 any individual who is over age two and able to medically tolerate a face-covering shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a mask or cloth face-covering when in a public place and unable to maintain, or when not maintaining, social distance.</p> <p>Executive Order 202.18, issued on 4/16/20, provides the following directive: Any person utilizing public or private transportation carriers or other for-hire vehicles, who is over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering, shall wear a mask or face covering over the nose and mouth during any such trip; any person who is operating such public or private transport, shall likewise wear a face covering or mask which covers the nose and mouth while there are any passengers in such vehicle. This directive shall take effect in the same manner as Executive Order 202.17, at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2020.</p>
<p>If the employer requires the use of respirators, a complete respiratory protection program must be established, including: a written plan, a suitably trained program administrator, training, medical clearances, and fit testing. The fit test is only valid for the model and size used during the test.</p> <p>The employer may make the determination that the N95 is not required but allows workers to optionally or voluntarily use them. The respirators can be provided by the employer or employee. If an employer only allows voluntary use of filtering facepiece respirators after determining that such use will not itself create a hazard, the employer's only further obligation under the Respiratory Protection standard is to provide a copy of Appendix D of the standard to each voluntary user of a filtering facepiece. [See 29 CFR 1910.134(c)(2); LOI 4/28/18] Appendix D https://www.osha.gov/lawsregs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134AppD</p>	<p>DOH Guidance: Individuals must procure, fashion, or otherwise obtain face coverings and wear such coverings when they are in a public and are: within six feet of distance from other individuals; or in a situation or setting where they are unable to maintain six feet of distance from other individuals; or in a public or private transportation carrier or for-hire vehicle.</p> <p>When wearing cloth face coverings, New Yorkers should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make sure that they fit snugly and cover their nose and mouth. ▪ Be changed frequently and laundered when they are soiled or wet. ▪ Not become complacent with other protective measures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do not touch the cloth covering or face. ○ Continue to be vigilant with thorough and frequent hand washing. Soap and water, or alcohol-based hand sanitizer of 60%+ alcohol. ○ Practice respiratory etiquette and cover your coughs or sneezes. ○ Practice social distancing – even when wearing masks.