

# Understanding the Different Masks

## Surgical Masks and N95 Respirators



North Central  
Health Care

Person centered. Outcome focused.



### Surgical Mask



### N95 Respirator

#### Testing and Approval

Cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Evaluated, tested, and approved by NIOSH as per the requirements in 42 CFR Part 84

#### Intended Use and Purpose

**Provides the wearer** with fluid resistant protection against only large droplets, splashes, or sprays of bodily or other hazardous fluids.  
**Protects the patient** from the wearer's respiratory emissions and saliva.

**Provides the wearer** with respiratory protection by reducing exposure to airborne particles including small aerosols and large droplets (only non-oil aerosols).  
**Protects the patient** from the wearer's respiratory emissions and saliva.

#### Face Seal Fit

Loose-fitting

Tight-fitting

#### Fit Testing Requirement

No

Yes

Wearers are **REQUIRED** to use only the assigned size N95 respirator based on Fit Testing.

#### User Seal Check Requirement

No.

Yes. **REQUIRED** each time the respirator is donned (put on).

#### Filtration

Filters out large droplets, splashes or sprays of bodily or other hazardous fluids. Does NOT provide the wearer with a reliable level of respiratory protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles.

Filters out at least 95% of airborne particles including large and small particles. Preferred for use with airborne viruses.

#### Leakage

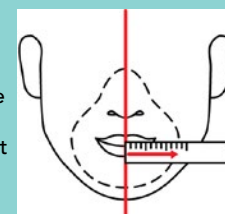
Leakage occurs around the edge of the mask when user inhales.

When properly fitted and donned minimal leakage occurs around edges of the respirator when user inhales.

#### Sizing for Proper Fit

No.

N95 Masks come in various sizes. **Facial measurements are more accurate for ensuring correct fit.** Measure from the center line of your face at your mouth to at least 1" past the outside corner of your mouth. The outer edge of the mask should



sit against your face at 1 to 1.5" outside the corner of your mouth. General sizing based on weight:  
LARGE - 250lbs +  
MEDIUM - 150 to 249 lbs  
SMALL - 100 to 145 lbs

**Please note: If a N95 respirator is required and not available, a surgical mask should be used if available, but is NOT considered the equivalent of a N95 respirator.**



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health