



FACE COVERINGS AND MASKS

Face coverings and different types of masks are being used to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Used in the correct circumstance can be effective tools in mitigating transmission by those in close contact with infected individuals.

FACE COVERINGS SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

- Common Types:** Scarves, bandanas, cloth masks
 - **Pros:** Readily available. Protects other people from the wearer. Limited, but some protection for the wearer from other people
 - **Cons:** Do not filter all virus particles that maybe expelled. Easily fall off the face rendering them less effective.
- Uses:** Useful to *aid in* filtering the wearers' respiratory droplets, reducing contamination of other people and surfaces. They are not as effective as face masks or respirators.



FACE MASKS BETTER THAN A FACE COVERING, NOT AS GOOD AS A RESPIRATOR (N95)

- Common Types:** Surgical, over the ear varieties, single strap varieties, loose fitting
 - **Pros:** Protects others from the wearers' respiratory droplets. More protective then face coverings for the wearer from other people Stay in place with proper sizing. Do not require medical evaluation and fit testing with required use.
 - **Cons:** Do not filter all respiratory droplets.
- Uses:** Useful to aid in creating a physical barrier between the wearers' mouth and nose and the environment, reducing contamination of other people and surfaces. They are not as effective at protecting wearer as a respirator.
- Care:** Disposable face masks should be used only once and then thrown away (if resources permit).



RESPIRATORS BEST PROTECTION

- Common Types:** N95s, half/hull mask varieties
 - **Pros:** Best protection for wearer
 - **Cons:** Supplies are currently limited. Required use necessitates Medical Evaluation and Fit Testing. Can be more difficult to breathe through.
 - **Built In Valve Varieties:** *Valves allow for easier exhalation by the wearer but bypass the filter allowing respiratory droplets to easily spread to other people and surfaces. These only protect the wearer from others and increase exposure to others.*
- Uses:** Designed to achieve a close facial fit, therefore are very efficient in filtration of airborne particles and respiratory secretions during both inhalation and exhalation.
- Care:** Due to current supply shortages, N95s may be reused by the same worker unless it becomes damaged, soiled, or if breathing becomes difficult. Respirators must be stored properly based on type of mask when not in use and labelled to identify the wearer.

