

Mask and Respirator Types

	Agency Approval	Sizes/Fit	Fit testing required?*	Decontamination and Reuse	Types	Notes**
Cloth/non-surgical masks 	None	Varies/ Loose	No	Yes	Many	Recommended by the CDC to be worn by individuals when outside the home in order to limit spread of the virus. ⁱ
Surgical masks 	FDA FDA EUA	None/ Loose	No	No	ASTM levels 1, 2, 3	Level 3 provides protection for moderate to heavy amounts of fluid, spray or aerosols. Filtration efficiency for sub-micron particulates is $\geq 95\%$ for Level 1, $\geq 98\%$ for Levels 2 and 3. ⁱⁱ
N95 and other filtering facepiece respirators (FFPR) 	NIOSH and FDA FDA EUA	Varies/ Tight	Yes	No Extended use is no longer permitted.	N95, surgical N95, N99, N100, R95, P95, P99, P100 List of approved FFPRs	Have an APF of 10 (reduces particulates to 1/10th of what is present in unfiltered air). Filtration efficiency indicated by number. Material is rated: ⁱⁱⁱ N – not resistant to oil R – some resistance to oil P – strongly resistant to oil
KN95 and other imported, non-NIOSH-approved FFP respirators 	Other countries' standards	Varies dependent on model/ Tight	Yes	No	Full list is on the FDA website	These respirators may not be used at this time. Emergency use authorizations for non-NIOSH-approved respirators were withdrawn July 6, 2021.

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<p>Elastomeric respirators</p> 	NIOSH FDA EUA	None/ Tight	Yes	Yes	Half-mask or Full facepiece List of approved elastomerics	<p>Have an APF of 10.</p> <p>Uses same protection classification as FFPRs.</p> <p>Have replaceable filters (some can be disinfected and re-used).</p> <p>Some have disposable (rubber-like) facepiece.</p> <p>Use of loupes is limited.</p> <p>Rigid non-flexible elastomeric respirators should be fit tested to avoid potential leaks.</p>
<p>Powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs)</p> 	NIOSH FDA EUA	None/ Loose	No	Yes	Half-mask or full facepiece Helmet or Hood Hood and Helmet List of approved PAPRs	<p>Have an APF of 25.</p> <p>Use of loupes is not possible with most units, although newer models can accommodate them.</p> <p>Training required for donning/doffing, cleaning, maintenance. Most use rechargeable batteries.</p> <p>Not all have replaceable filters.</p>

* An initial [fit testing](#) and [medical evaluation](#) should be conducted for each employee. More information can be found in the [sample Respiratory Protection Program](#) resource.

** Use of loupes and headlamps should be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Glossary

APF – Assigned protection factor

ASTM - American Society for Testing and Materials

EUA – Emergency use authorization

FDA – U.S. Food and Drug Administration

NIOSH – CDC National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health

ⁱ N95 Respirators, Surgical Masks, Face Masks and Barrier Face Coverings, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-surgical-masks-and-face-masks>, accessed September 16, 2021

ⁱⁱ Choose the Right Mask, Cardinal Health, <https://www.cardinalhealth.com/content/dam/corp/web/documents/whitepaper/Face%20Mask%20Selection%20Guide.pdf>, accessed July 17, 2020

ⁱⁱⁱ NIOSH-Approved Filtering Facepiece Respirators, https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nppt/topics/respirators/disp_part/default.html, accessed July 17, 2020