

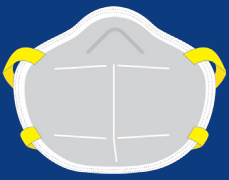
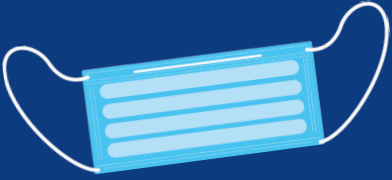
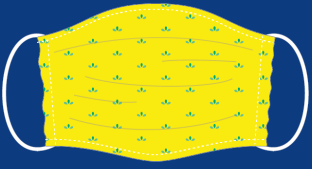


Respirators, Surgical Masks, and Non-Medical Masks

Know the differences

Note: All masks should be replaced or cleaned when they are wet, damaged, visibly dirty, contaminated (e.g., blood, respiratory fluids), or when breathing through it becomes difficult.

If re-using is permitted, be sure to clean the mask between uses.

	 Respirators (including N95)	 Surgical Masks	 Non-Medical Masks
Evaluation, Testing, and Certification	Respirators are evaluated, tested and certified by the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH).	Surgical masks are classified by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).	Have not been evaluated or tested to recognized standards.
Purpose	Respirators protect from exposure to airborne particles, including viruses.	Surgical masks are a barrier to spreading droplets and spit.	Non-medical masks help limit the spread of droplets and spit when you sneeze or cough.
Fit (Face Seal)	Respirators are designed to seal tight to the face of the wearer.	Are not designed to seal tight against the face.	Are not designed to seal tight against the face.
Filtration	Respirator filters that collect at least 95% of the challenge aerosol are given a 95 rating.	Surgical masks do not effectively filter small particles from the air.	Fabrics are not the same as materials used in certified masks and do not necessarily filter viruses.
Use Limitations	Generally single use but repurposing may be appropriate in certain circumstances. Follow manufacturer's instructions.	Generally single use, but repurposing may be appropriate in certain circumstances. Follow manufacturer's instructions.	Can be difficult to breathe through fabric. Wash between uses.
Who Should Use and When	Health care workers and others when providing direct care to a COVID-19 patient.	Health care workers and others when providing direct care to a COVID-19 patient.	General public when consistent physical distancing is not possible, such as in stores and shopping areas, and on public transit.



Respirators, Surgical Masks, and Non-Medical Masks

Wearing any type of respirator or mask on its own will not prevent the spread of COVID-19. You must also:

- Stay home if you are sick or might be sick. Follow the Public Health Agency of Canada's steps for self-assessment: <https://www.canada.ca/coronavirus>
- Practice physical distancing by staying more than 2 metres (6 feet) apart from others.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your face, mouth, nose and eyes.

For further information on COVID-19, refer to the Public Health Agency of Canada <https://www.canada.ca/coronavirus>

