

## COVID-19: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR CHOOSING RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Based off general advice from health authorities around the world including the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), AnsellCARES has developed this practical guide for healthcare workers to help choose the appropriate respiratory protection needed for the work done in a hospital, clinic, aged care facility or in the community.

This list is a quick reference guide and is not exhaustive. Please refer to the manufacturer's instructions for use and your facility's policy and procedures regarding respiratory protection for your particular environment.

	MEDICAL MASKS		FACIAL FILTERING RESPIRATORS		
	Level 2	Level 3	N95	N99	N100
Types of mask	Protects wearer from infective agents from the nose and mouth	Protects wearer from infective agents from the nose and mouth and against splashes or potentially contaminated liquids	Filters out 95% of airborne particulate matter. <b>WHO recommends N95 or higher protection when facial filtering respirators are advised</b>	Filters out 99% of airborne particulate matter	Maximum protection. Filters out 99.7% of airborne particulate matter
Prevent spread of droplets by the wearer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wearer requires high filtration protection from expelled splashes		✓	✓	✓	✓
Expelled particulates must be contained where fluid resistance is required			✓	✓	✓
Wearer requires tight-fitted, sealed respiratory protection			✓	✓	✓
Wearer requires tight-fitted, sealed respiratory protection when performing aerosol-generating procedures			✓	✓	✓

### REMEMBER:

- Always ensure compliance with your local public health authorities regulations surrounding usage and selection guidance of personal protective equipment (PPE) to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Follow recommended mask conservation guidelines to preserve PPE for front line healthcare workers and to ensure appropriate supply based on risk level is available.
- In addition to preservation strategies, CDC has recommended guidance for extended use and limited reuse of N95 facial filtering respirators. Extended use is preferred due to less contact and risk of transmission. If no N95 respirators are available, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved alternative respirators can be used.\*

\* <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

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### Important advice from WHO on the use of masks\* during this COVID-19 pandemic

1

**Wearing a medical mask** is one of the preventative measures that can limit the spread of certain respiratory viral diseases, including **COVID-19**



2



Whether or not masks are used, **maximum compliance with hand hygiene** and other infection protection control measures are critical to prevent human-to-human transmission

3



Healthcare workers should use a particulate respirator, at the least a European Union (EU) standard **FFP2** or a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) certified **N95** or equivalent, when assessing or managing a confirmed COVID-19 case

4



Follow **disposal guidelines** which include changing as recommended, removing masks from behind and disposing immediately in closed containers

Wearing a mask is recommended when outdoors, including mass transit and ride shares or other **highly populated exposure areas** to limit the spread



\*To view WHO's advice on the use of masks in context of COVID-19. [Download pdf here](#)

Disclaimer: Given the novelty of this coronavirus, recommendations from the source references are interim and advisory in nature and are based on current knowledge of the situation.