

# Do I need a face covering or a respirator?

	Cloth face covering	Surgical mask	N95 respirator (NIOSH approved)	Elastomeric half face respirator
<b>Understanding the difference</b>				
<b>Is this a respirator?</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Does this require an employer respiratory protection plan, including medical clearance and fit testing?</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Primary purpose</b>	Limit community spread Protect the people around you if you are infected, but do not have symptoms	Limit community spread Protect the people around you if you are infected, but do not have symptoms	Reduce your exposure to particles and respiratory droplets	Reduce your exposure to particles and respiratory droplets Protect against chemical hazards with the proper cartridges
<b>Filtration</b>	Provides wearer very limited protection from inhaling small particles	Provides wearer very limited protection from inhaling small particles	Filters out at least 95% of airborne particles	When used with a P100 cartridge, it filters out ~100% of airborne particles
<b>Limitations</b>	Limited protection for wearer	Limited protection for wearer	Particulate protection only	Cartridge type determines particulate and/or chemical protection
<b>Who should wear it</b>	Employees per <a href="#">Oregon Face Covering Guidance</a> General public	Healthcare workers and patients	Healthcare workers and others, as required by specific task hazard/PPE assessment	Healthcare workers and others, as required by specific task hazard/PPE assessment
<b>When to wear it</b>	Work or public settings	Healthcare patient interactions, such as intake	Patient interaction during healthcare procedures, or when exposed to a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 or other sources of SARS-CoV-2. For other occupations, as required by task hazard/PPE assessment	As required by specific task hazard/PPE assessment
<b>Comments</b>	<a href="#">FDA Cloth Face Covering Guide</a> (Multiple languages)	Due to shortages, use should be reserved for healthcare	Use per OSHA guidelines for other occupations ( <a href="#">see here for interim guidance</a> ) and <a href="#">SAIF N95 Guide</a>	Used by workers with an increased exposure risk or for tasks that require respiratory protection