FACE MASKS VERSUS RESPIRATORS

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND APPROPRIATE USE FOR COVID-19

**FACE MASKS**

**WHAT**

Prevent the wearer from transferring droplets to the environment

**WHEN TO USE**

Are you showing signs of infection?

- **YES**
  - Consider wearing a face mask

- **NO**
  - No need for a face mask

**HOW**

Block respiratory droplets produced by the wearer from contaminating other persons and surfaces

**WHEN TO USE**

- Sterile preparation
- Surgery
- Persons suspected to be infected

**LIMITATIONS**

Not effective for protecting the wearer from respiratory droplets in the environment

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**NIOSH-Approved N95 RESPIRATORS**

**WHAT**

Protect the wearer from droplets within the environment

**WHEN TO USE**

Are you in contact with an infected individual?

- **YES**
  - A respirator may be indicated to help keep you safe. The infected individual should also consider wearing a face mask

- **NO**
  - No need for a face mask

**HOW**

Once properly fit tested, reduce the wearer’s risk of inhaling hazardous airborne particles, gases, or vapors

**WHEN TO USE**

- Healthcare personnel, co-inhabitants, or caregivers for infected patients or patients suspected to be infected

**LIMITATIONS**

Must be professionally fit tested to ensure effectiveness. Improperly fitted respirators do not provide protection

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Content adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention