FACE COVERINGS, MASKS & RESPIRATORS



When to Use Them to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

California and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are encouraging everyone to use cloth face coverings when around coworkers or in public to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Employers must provide face coverings for workers or reimburse them for the reasonable costs of obtaining them.

	Graphic: CDC	Graphic: CDC	NIOSH N95
	Reusable Cloth Face Covering	Disposable Surgical Mask or Procedure Mask	Disposable N95 Respirator, PAPR, Elastomeric Respirator
Respiratory protection for the wearer	X	X	
Protects people near the wearer (Use with physical/social distancing)			
Who should use it?	General public, most workers	Surgical masks are currently prioritized for source control and other specified uses in health care facilities and other workplaces.	Health care workers, first responders, others at highest risk of exposure to COVID-19

- All face coverings, surgical masks, and respirators must cover the nose and mouth.
- Wash or sanitize hands before and after using or adjusting face coverings, surgical masks, and respirators.
- Wash face coverings after each shift and discard if they no longer cover the nose and mouth, have stretched-out or damaged ties or straps, cannot properly stay on the face, or have holes or tears.
- When removing any face covering, surgical mask, or respirator, do not touch the outside.
- N95 and other tight-fitting respirators must be fit tested to select a model and size that fits the individual and provides a reliable level of protection. At this time, they are reserved primarily for health care workers, first responders, and those exposed to other hazardous particles.