


FACE COVERINGS AND MEDICAL MASKS

COVERING/MASK	Efficiency at filtering Large Droplets	Efficiency at filtering Aerosols	Use in Aviation
 N95 Mask	99.9%	95%	Not routinely recommended. For use in healthcare and other occupational settings.
 Surgical Mask	98.5%	89.5%	Recommended
 Two-layer Cotton Mask	99.5%	82%	Recommended if 2 or more layers
 Tea Towel or Dishcloth	98%	72.5%	Not Recommended
 100% Cotton T-shirt	97%	51%	Not Recommended
 Silk or Lace	56%	54%	Not Recommended
 Scarf or Bandana	44%	49%	Not Recommended
 Mask with Built-in Valve or Vent	90%	90%	Not allowed due to risk of transmitting the virus

Based on Source: Democritus University of Thrace; Duke University; Journal of Hospital Infection; Public Health England; University of Chicago; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

HOW TO SELECT, WEAR, AND CLEAN YOUR MASK

DO choose masks that:



DO NOT choose masks that:



Have exhalation valves or vents, which allow virus particles to escape



Are intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators or other occupational settings

Gaiters & Face Shields



Wear a gaiter with two layers, or fold it to make two layers



CAUTION: Evaluation is ongoing but effectiveness is unknown at this time



Special Situations: Children

If you are able, find a mask that is made for children

If you can't find a mask made for children, check to be sure the mask fits snugly over the nose and mouth and under the chin



Special Situations: Glasses

If you wear glasses, find a mask that fits closely over your nose or one that has a nose wire to limit fogging



Do NOT put on children younger than 2 years old or the age specified by your national public health authority

DO wear a mask that:

- Covers your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Fits snugly against the sides of your face

For more information, visit our [How to Wear Masks](#) web page.



How NOT to wear a mask:

✗ Around your neck



✗ On your forehead



✗ Under your nose



✗ Only on your nose



✗ On your chin



✗ Dangling from one ear



How to take off a mask:



1 Carefully, untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops



2 Handle only by the ear loops or ties



3 Fold outside corners together



4 Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing