PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR CUSTOMERS FROM OMICRON

Upgrade Your Mask!

The COVID-19 Omicron variant is very contagious! Starting January 17, 2022, all employers must provide well-fitting medical masks or respirators to employees who work indoors and in close contact with other workers and/or customers. This is to provide additional protection from COVID-19 infection. As with all employer safety requirements, the cost of a mask must not be passed on to employees.

Know which Masks Provide the Best Protection Against COVID-19

Protect More



Respirators: N95, KN95, and KF94

They are even more effective if they are fit-tested



Double mask

(Medical/surgical mask + cloth mask)



Medical/surgical mask – fitted:

- With a brace
- With the knot & tuck technique



Medical/surgical mask – not fitted

Protect Less

No matter what kind of mask you wear, check the fit and eliminate gaps above the nose or on the sides.

Gaps significantly reduce the effectiveness of any mask.



These respirators and medical/surgical masks are designed for one-time use. They should be thrown away once they become wet or dirty OR after a day of use, whichever comes first.

Respirators

- N95 and KN95 respirators are designed to filter at least 95% of airborne particles (KF94s are designed to filter 94%). But they may be less comfortable because they filter better and fit more tightly.
- They may not fit as well if you have facial hair.
- To work well, respirators need to make a tight seal on your face. See NIOSH instructions for how to put on, take off, and check the seal of a respirator.
- Check the seal each time you put one on.
- If you have breathing difficulties, check with your doctor before wearing a respirator.
- Do not wear a respirator with another mask.
- If choosing a KN95 respirator, use one that has been tested by NPPTL or offers filtration efficiency of 95% or higher.
- Beware of counterfeit (fake) respirators as they may not be able to provide the promised protection.

Medical/Surgical Masks

- Masks with an adjustable nose bridge that are made of at least three layers of non-woven material (melt-blown fabric and/or polypropylene) will provide increased protection and meet the requirements for a "medical mask." These masks are often sold as disposable, protective, medical, or surgical masks.
- Medical masks should be resistant to fluids. Test your mask with a drop of water on the front. The water should not soak into the mask. It should form beads of water on the surface.
- These masks are loose fitting and need be adjusted to secure a tight fit.
- The fit can be improved simply by knotting the ear loops close to the edge of the mask and tucking the excess material. You can also use a mask brace to reduce air leakage from the edges of the mask.
- **Double masking is strongly recommended**. This is wearing a medical mask UNDER a tight-fitting cloth mask to greatly increase filtration and reduce leakage. Double masking provides much more protection than wearing a medical mask alone.