

What's the Right Mask for Me?

Not all masks are created equal, and they're not all the right tool for the job. According to the CDC to preserve equipment for healthcare professionals anyone who does not work in a healthcare setting should use a cloth mask. Similarly, there are healthcare scenarios where a surgical mask does the job.

We've outlined the summarized the CDC's criteria below for a quick reference:



Cloth Mask

Use Case:

Non-Healthcare Providers + Personal Use

Testing + Approval:

None

Purpose:

Slows the spread of diseases by minimizing the wearer's respiratory droplets when talking, sneezing or coughing.



3 Fly Mask

ASTM LEVEL 1

Use Case:

Non-Healthcare + Personal Use with **Low Risk** of Fluid Exposure

Testing + Approval:

Cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Purpose:

Fluid resistant and provides the wearer protection against large droplets, splashes, or sprays of bodily or other hazardous fluids. Protects the patient from the wearer's respiratory emissions.

ASTM LEVEL 2

Use Case:

Healthcare Providers with **Moderate Risk** of Fluid Exposure

ASTM LEVEL 3

Use Case:

Healthcare Providers with **High Risk** of Fluid Exposure



N95 Respirator

Use Case:

Healthcare Providers

Testing + Approval:

Evaluated, tested and approved by NIOSH.

Purpose:

Reduces wearer's exposure to particles including small particle aerosols and large droplets.

SOURCE: Center for Disease Control (CDC)