

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

FACE COVERINGS, MASKS, AND RESPIRATORS

	FACE COVERINGS	MEDICAL/PROCEDURE MASKS	RESPIRATORS
Examples	Source: Public Health — Seattle & King County		Source: Grainger.com
Other names	Cloth face covering, facemask	Surgical mask, medical mask, procedure mask	N95 filtering-facepiece, half-face air purifying, full-face air-purifying respirators
Purpose	Protects others by containing the wearer's respiratory emissions. Protects the wearer by capturing respiratory droplets breathed out by others.	 Protects the wearer against respiratory droplets, splashes or splatter from bodily fluids. Protects others by containing the wearer's respiratory emissions. 	 Protects the wearer from inhaling particles and respiratory droplets; also protects from splashes or sprays of bodily fluids. Respirators without exhalation valves protect others by containing the wearer's respiratory emissions.
Fit	The mask should completely cover the mouth and nose, fit snugly against the sides of the face without gaps, and ideally have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask. Does not seal around mouth and nose.	The mask should fit firm across the face, over the nose and under the chin. Does not seal around mouth and nose.	The mask should fit firm across the face, over the nose and under the chin. Can seal around mouth and nose. <u>Fit testing</u> is required if activity requires a respirator.
Care	Can be reused; it should be washed daily and if it becomes dirty or wet. Additional care instructions are located on the <u>CDC</u> website. Put on and take off with clean hands. Keep it in a dry, breathable bag to keep it clean between uses.	Discard after each use, when contaminated in the workplace, if it becomes wet, or per unit-specific procedures. Put on and take off with clean hands or clean gloves.	Discard after exposure to bodily fluids, or if it becomes wet, deformed or damaged. Put on and take off with clean hands or clean gloves.
Requirements	Face coverings are required or recommended according to the UW <u>COVID-19 Face Covering</u> <u>Policy</u> .	Wear when a <u>risk assessment</u> indicates it is required. Use when there may be exposure to splash/splatter from bodily fluids.	Wear when a <u>risk assessment</u> indicates it is required; users must be medically cleared, trained and fit tested. Can be used <u>voluntarily</u> <u>without fit test</u> if it is not required. If mask has an exhalation valve, cover it with a mask or face covering that does not interfere with fit.

Refer to the <u>Respiratory Protection</u> page on the Environmental Health & Safety website for more information.