

Types of Masks

There are many types of masks you can use to protect yourself and others from getting and spreading COVID-19. When choosing a mask, choose one that fits snugly. Learn more about how to choose a mask that fits well and offers the best protection.

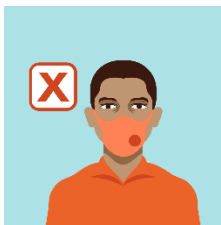
Cloth Masks

Cloth Masks can be made from a variety of fabrics, and many types of cloth masks are available.



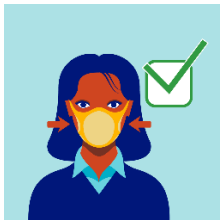
Look for

- Multiple layers of tightly woven, breathable fabric
- Nose wire
- Mask should block light when held up to bright light source



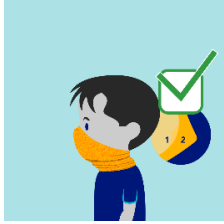
Do NOT wear

- Masks with exhalation valves or vents
- Single layer or masks made of thin fabric that don't block light



2 Ways to have better fit and extra protection

- Wear two masks (disposable mask underneath AND cloth mask on top)
- Combine a cloth mask with a fitter or brace



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

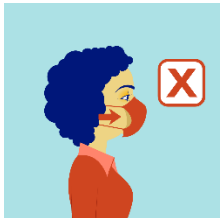
Disposable Masks

Disposable face masks are widely available.



Look for

- A description indicating multiple layers of non-woven material
- Nose wire

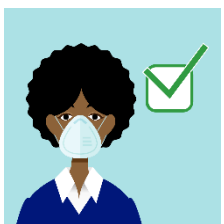


Do NOT wear

- Masks with gaps around the sides of the face or nose
- If wet or dirty

KN95 Masks

KN95 masks are a type of filtering facepiece respirator that are commonly made in China and similar to N95 masks commonly used in the United States.



Look for

KN95 masks that meet requirements similar to those set by CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for respirators



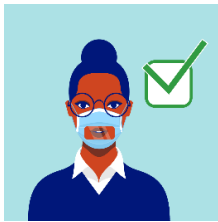
Do NOT wear

- If you have certain types of facial hair
- Counterfeit (fake) KN95 masks
- If hard to breathe
- With other masks; wear KN95 alone only

BE AWARE: About 60% KN95 masks in the United States are counterfeit (fake) and DO NOT meet NIOSH requirements.

Clear Masks or Cloth Masks with a Clear Plastic Panel

Clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel are an alternative type of mask for people who interact with:



- People who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Young children or students learning to read
- Students learning a new language
- People with disabilities
- People who need to see the proper shape of the mouth for making appropriate vowel sounds (for example, when singing)