

Use of N95 masks for respiratory protection or source control during times of moderate to high community transmission

When in doubt, follow higher-risk-level guidance.						
Risk	High risk		Medium risk		Moderate risk	
Scenarios	Level 1a	Level 1b	Level 2a	Level 2b	Level 3a	Level 3b
Location and patient type	Designated hot zone; caring for a cohort of COVID+ patients	Mobile testing site	Delivering care to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known COVID+ patient outside hot zone Suspected COVID-19 patients with negative, unknown or pending test results Patients undergoing aerosol-generating procedures 	Delivering clinical care in all other areas	Non-patient-care areas <i>Examples:</i> Facilities, ITS Nutrition Services Guest Services, EVS non-clinical areas	Visitors
N95 required¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Encouraged	Optional ²	No
Extended use	Yes. Change if soiled or damaged	Yes. Change if soiled or damaged	No	Yes. Change if soiled or damaged or if in a higher-risk scenario	Yes. Change if soiled or damaged ²	Yes. Change if soiled or damaged ²
Fit-test required	Yes	Yes	Yes	Encouraged	No	No
N95 type	Approved for respiratory protection ³	Approved for respiratory protection ³	Approved for respiratory protection ³	Approved for respiratory protection ³	For source control only ²	For source control only ²
Face shield required	Yes	Yes	Eye protection	Eye protection	No	No

¹ Staff with facial hair or for whom fit testing fails, see 400-IC-IC-0089 Respiratory Protection Policy.

² N95 use replaces a surgical or cloth mask as source control. <https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2020/09/08/source-control>.

³ Unit leaders to consult with Materials Management for N95 model types approved for respiratory protection.