

RESPIRATOR/FACEMASK FAQ

What is the difference between an N95 respirator and a KN95 respirator?

The N95 respirator is the most common type of particulate filtering facepiece respirators. In the United States, all N95 respirators used in occupational settings are approved by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Other countries approve respirators for occupational use according to country-specific standards. These products are evaluated using some methods that are similar to those used by NIOSH. Some methods are different but are expected to provide protection similar to NIOSH-approved filtering facepiece respirators. KN95 is the product classification for filtering facepiece respirators used by China.

Are the N95/KN95s approved for health care use?

The 3M 9010CN N95 is NIOSH approved and is listed on the CDC/NIOSH web page for NIOSH-Approved N95 Particulate Filtering Facepiece Respirators:

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/respirators/disp_part/N95list1.html.

The 3M 9010CN N95s are not FDA-cleared medical devices. However, due to the shortage of available medically approved N95 respirators, the FDA has issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EAU) that authorizes the use of non-medical N95 or N95 equivalent devices (i.e. KN95) in healthcare settings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Does the N95/KN95 need fit testing?

1. Per the ADA Understanding Mask Types, there is a temporary lift of the fit test enforcement requirement.
2. Currently, qualitative fit test kits are unavailable.
3. Training on proper fit and conducting a seal check will be provided via a video provided by 3M:
<https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/17932080/tips-for-using-a-3m-vertical-flat-fold-filtering-facepiece-respirator-9010.mp4>

Does N95/KN95 require a seal check?

Yes. Each time the N95/KN95 is donned, the user should conduct a seal check. Place both hands against the mask and take a breath to make sure that it seals against your face. Then exhale, feeling for any



leakage from the nosepiece or around the edges. If you feel air leaking from the nose area, re-mold the nosepiece. If air leaking is coming from the edges of the mask, adjust the placement of the ear loops.

How many N95/KN95 masks does each clinical team member get?

The practice is provided with four (4) N95/KN95s for each clinical team member. They should be rotated, with a different N95/KN95 being worn each day.

How do you properly rotate/re-use the N95/KN95?

At the end of the day, the N95/KN95 is placed in a breathable container (i.e. paper bag) and stored in an area designated for decontamination. The container is clearly labeled with the user's name and last date worn. Allow a minimum of 72 hours between uses.

Why do I need to wear a Level 3 surgical mask over the N95/KN95?

1. The N95/KN95 filters 95% of particles .3 microns and larger. A Level 3 surgical mask filters 98% of particles .1 micron and larger.
2. The N95/KN95s do not have fluid resistant properties. Level 3 surgical masks minimally have a fluid resistant outer layer.
3. Level 3 surgical mask worn over the N95/KN95 helps preserve the integrity of the N95/KN95 allowing for multiple wears to optimize inventory.

