

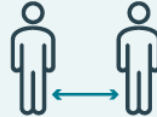


COVID-19

ACT NOW!



WEAR A MASK



STAY 6 FEET APART



AVOID CROWDS

Types of Masks

Updated Feb. 10, 2021

[Print](#)

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.



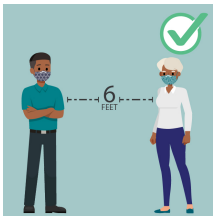
Look for

- 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



When to wear

- Anytime you are indoors or outdoors with people who don't live with you.



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

Disposable Masks

Disposable face masks are widely available.



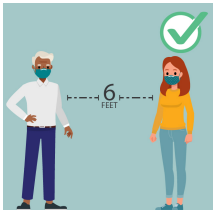
Look for:

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



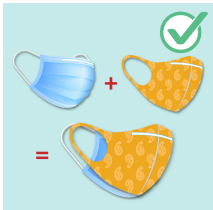
Do NOT wear

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



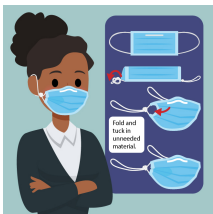
When to wear

- Anytime you are indoors or outdoors with people you don't live with.



Ways to have better fit and extra protection

- Wear two masks (disposable mask underneath **AND** cloth mask on top)
- A cloth mask can be combined with a fitter or brace
- Knot and tuck ear loops of a 3-ply mask where they join the edge of the mask
 - Fold and tuck the unneeded material under the edges (See: <https://youtu.be/UANi8Cc71A0>).



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.

For a better fit and additional protection

Sometimes, you may need more protection to prevent getting and spreading COVID-19.

- Riding on planes, buses, trains, or other forms of public transportation, especially when you can't keep [at least 6 feet away](#) from people who don't live with you
- [Taking care of someone](#) who is sick with COVID-19
- [Working at a job](#) where you interact with large numbers of the public. Examples of jobs might include bus drivers and grocery store workers
- If you are [at increased risk for severe illness](#), for example, older adults or people with certain underlying medical conditions



For more information on science behind improving how your mask protects you, see [Improve the Fit and Filtration of Your Mask to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19](#).

Reserve N95 respirators for healthcare workers

CDC does not recommend the use of N95 respirators for protection against COVID-19 in non-healthcare settings because N95 respirators should be reserved for health care workers.



Last Updated Feb. 10, 2021

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](#), Division of Viral Diseases