

FACE COVERING, DISPOSABLE MASK, AND RESPIRATOR COMPARISON

	FACE COVERINGS	DISPOSABLE MASKS	RESPIRATORS
Different Types			
Different Names	Cloth face covering, fabric covering, bandana, scarves.	Surgical mask, medical mask, standard ear loop mask, personal protective equipment (PPE).	N95, particulate-filtering face piece, personal protective equipment (PPE).
Purpose	Protects others from respiratory droplets produced by the wearer.	Protects the wearer from contact with droplets, splashes and sprays. Protects others from respiratory droplets produced by the wearer.	Protects from exposure to airborne particles. In a healthcare setting, protects from exposure to biohazards including viruses and bacteria and provides a barrier to splashes, droplets, and sprays. Protects others from respiratory droplets produced by the wearer.
Face Seal Fit	Mask should fit over the nose and under the chin. Not designed to fit tightly to the face.	Mask should fit over the nose and under the chin. Not designed to fit tightly to the face.	Designed to fit tightly to the face creating a seal around the perimeter of the respirator to improve protection.
Use Limitations	Can be reused; should be washed daily or if it becomes wet or dirty.	Single use. Should be discarded when it becomes damaged or deformed; no longer forms an effective seal to the face; becomes wet or visibly dirty; breathing through it becomes more difficult; or if it becomes contaminated.	Should be discarded when it becomes damaged or deformed; no longer forms an effective seal to the face; becomes wet or visibly dirty; breathing through it becomes more difficult; or if it becomes contaminated.
Requirements	Wear in public settings (indoors and outdoors) where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.	Wear in public settings (indoors and outdoors) where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Use to protect from contact with droplets, splashes and sprays.	Training, medical evaluation and fit testing are required before use. NIOSH approved N95 respirators are in limited supply and should be reserved for personnel with higher risk of workplace exposure to the virus.

**Refer to the CDC [Respirator Trusted – Source Information](#) and the [WCU Respiratory Protection Program](#) for more information.