



KN95 MASKS

Are a type of filtering facepiece mask that is often confused with an N95 respirator. KN95s are not NIOSH approved respirators and therefore do not fall under OSHA regulations or the University of Oregon’s Respiratory Protection Program. As such, there are no restrictions on employees voluntarily wearing a KN95. Both KN95s and N95s are made of similar materials. The primary difference between the two types is that KN95s are not able to create as tight of a seal between the mask and the skin as a N95 does. This means that their filtering efficiency is less than that of an N95 respirator. Many report KN95s to be more breathable and comfortable to wear than N95s, especially if wearing for long durations.

KN95s are a good option for employees not required to use N95 within the scope of their work. KN95s can be reused as long as the mask fits properly and breathing remains comfortable. Store your KN95 in a paper bag to keep it clean between uses. Properly used and stored, KN95s can be reused up to 5 times.

KN95s:

- Provide good protection against nuisance airborne particles (dust, pollen, and smoke, for example) and can reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses.
- Do not require fit testing, training, medical questionnaires, or approval before use.
- Are most effective if there is direct skin to mask contact.
- With a close seal, are more effective against particulates than a surgical mask or cloth face covering.

WHAT TO DO!

- Always follow the manufacturer’s guidance for safe use!
- Visit the CDC page on [“Types of Masks and Respirators”](#)
- Check your mask carefully to ensure that it is a KN95 and not a NIOSH labeled respirator requiring training before use.
- Employees who wish to voluntarily use or are required to use a respirator must get approval from their supervisor and have a consultation with EHS prior to respirator use in the workplace.



Example of KN95 mask



Example of an N95 respirator. Voluntary and required use of a respirator requires supervisor approval and a consultation with EHS prior to use in the workplace.

