



## PROTECTIVE MASKS

Come in many different styles and materials. It is important to know the uses and limitations of each type of mask before you wear one. Regardless of the type of mask you use, it is vital to wash your hands before you put it on, before you take it off, and after you take it off. In addition, be sure to consult with Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) if you have questions about the different types of masks or what is required for your work.

## CLOTH MASKS

- Designed to minimize the wearer from spreading airborne diseases.
- Do not have a tight seal against the face; it will not protect the wearer from inhaling airborne bacteria or virus particles.
- Provides a protective barrier from touching your face.
- Can be used multiple times and should be laundered daily.

## SURGICAL MASKS

- Are designed to prevent the wearer from spreading airborne diseases.
- Will help block large-particle droplets, splashes, sprays, or splatters that may contain viruses and bacteria from reaching the wearer's mouth and nose.
- Do not have a tight seal against the face, so it will not protect the wearer from inhaling airborne bacteria or virus particles.
- Provide a protective barrier from touching your face.
- Surgical masks are a form of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and are provided to employees by the UO where their use is required; eg. University Health Services.

## N95 RESPIRATORS

- A tight-fitting mask that seals to the face, also known as a "filtering facepiece respirator."
- Filters out 95% of airborne particulates that are .3 microns or greater.
- N95s are a form of PPE and are supplied by the UO for tasks where its use is required.
- An N95 is a respirator and OSHA regulates respirator use. As such, there are requirements that must be met prior to their use at UO. These requirements are still applicable to employees who purchase their own N95, or they wish to wear one voluntarily.
- For more information about N95s, please see the N95 Safety Sheet.



Example of cloth masks.



Example of surgical mask.



Example of N95 Respirator.

