



KN95 MASKS

Are a type of filtering face mask, 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. 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 an 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.

For employees not required to use N95s within the scope of their work or due to medical need, KN95s are a good option that is more protective than a standard cloth mask. 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. Rotate your masks so you it has time to dry between uses. Discard the KN95 when it becomes soiled, damaged, or difficult to breath through. Properly used and stored KN95s can be reused up to 5 times.

KN95s:

- Meet the UO face covering regulation
- Provide good filtering of airborne particulates
- Do not require fit testing, training, medical questionnaires, or approval before use
- Are most effective if there is direct skin to mask contact (no facial hair)
- With a close seal, are more effective against particulate than a surgical mask or cloth face covering
- If you choose to double up your mask, put the KN95 on first, then cover with a cloth or paper mask on top.

WHAT TO DO!

- Wear a face covering to meet the requirements of the UO's Face Covering regulation and help stem the spread of Covid-19. More information on the regulation at coronavirus.uoregon.edu.
- Check your mask carefully to ensure it is a KN95 and not a NIOSH labeled respirator requiring training before use.
- Always follow the manufacturer's guidance for safe use!
- If you require an N95 for your job or medical need, contact EHS.
- Visit the CDC page on "[Types of Masks and Respirators](#)"



Example of a KN95 mask.



Example of an N95 respirator. Further training required before use.