



N95

respirators, or filtering face piece respirators, are regulated under the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) and managed through the University’s Respiratory Protection Program. When worn correctly, N95’s are capable of filtering 95% of airborne particulate at .3 microns or larger. Given the current shortage of N95's as a result of the pandemic, we are required by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and OSHA to limit the use of N95's as much as possible to front-line workers. On campus, this means saving our limited supply for employees involved in direct patient care at the University Health Center, on the COVID MAP Team, involved in COVID19 response, and in the COVID19 research lab. Other employees at the UO may be required to wear an N95 during certain tasks as a result of a hazard assessment or an OSHA regulation. Employees, with a medical need, can also request the voluntary use of an N95 when one is not required. Steps to begin wearing an N95 vary depending on required versus voluntary use.



Example of an N95 respirator.

STEPS FOR REQUIRED USERS:

- Contact Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) - Let them know you are required to use an N95 for your job.
- Take the on-line “Respiratory Protection: N95 Only” training - EHS will provide you with a link to MyTrack.
- Complete a medical questionnaire - A physician at the University Health Center will determine if the you are medically fit to wear a respirator.
- Schedule a fit test with EHS - A hood will be placed over your head and an artificial atmosphere created to determine if the fit is effective.

STEPS FOR VOLUNTARY USERS:

- Contact EHS - Let them know you would like to voluntarily use an N95 for your job.
- Take the on-line “Respiratory Protection: N95 Only” training - EHS will provide you with a link to MyTrack.
- Complete the “Voluntary Respirator Use” form - Return it to EHS.

WHAT TO DO!

- Please help conserve N95 supply by only using one if required for your job or if you have a medical need.
- Speak with your supervisor before use of an N95 in the workplace.
- Only wear for protection from the particulates it is designed for. N95’s are not made for protection against chemical vapors or dust containing asbestos, lead, or silica.
- Always follow the manufacturer’s guidance for safe use!
- KN95 masks are more readily available than N95’s, making them a good alternative option when an N95 is not required. KN95’s offer a similar level of protection, but do not need to meet regulatory requirements.
- N95’s can be purchased at Science Stores (541-346-4600). KN95's are also available.
- Bring questions to your supervisor and direct additional questions to EHS.

