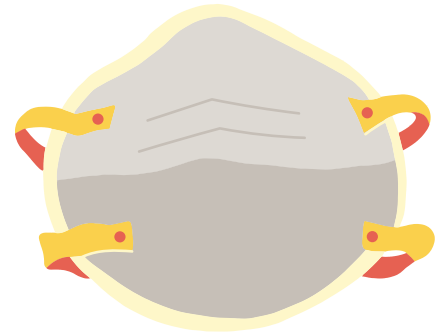


# N95 Respirators, Surgical Masks, and Cloth Face Coverings: What's the Difference?

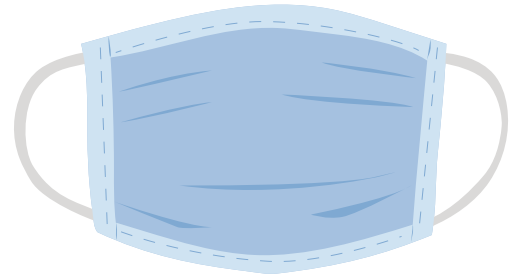
## N95 Respirator

- Designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles.
- When properly fitted, they filter out 95% of particles 0.3 microns or larger.
- They are in serious shortage even for medical professionals, who are most in need of the strongest protection against the virus.
- They are also difficult to fit correctly. For those reasons, the CDC does not recommend them for general use.



## Surgical Mask

- Does not seal against the face but does include non-woven polypropylene layers that are moisture resistant and protect against large droplets, splashes, or sprays of bodily fluids.
- Does not filter or block very small particles in the air that may be transmitted by coughs and sneezes (not as effective as N95's).
- Often referred to as face masks.
- Due to shortages, the CDC also does not recommend surgical masks for the general public.



## Cloth Face Covering

- Recommended for the general public by the CDC, but is not a substitute for social distancing.
- Allows some air in around the sides and lacks non-woven, moisture-repelling layers.
- Needs to be regularly washed and dried using a washing machine and dryer.
- Not intended to protect the wearer, but it may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms.

