

Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) - Resources for Dental Professionals

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Resources:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

CDC Healthcare Professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>

CDC Healthcare Professionals Infection Control by Topic: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/index.html>

CDC Oral Health Division: <https://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/index.html>

National Institutes of Health (NIH): <https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): www.epa.gov <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): www.fda.gov <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): www.osha.gov
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/> ; <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

John Hopkins University of Medicine COVID-19 Cases by the Center for Systems Science
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

Organization for Safety Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) www.osap.org
<https://www.osap.org/page/COVID-19>

American Dental Association (ADA) www.ada.org https://success.ada.org/en/practice-management/patients/infectious-diseases-2019-novel-coronavirus?utm_source=adaorg&utm_medium=adahomerotator&utm_content=cv-pm-emerg-def&utm_campaign=covid-19&_ga=2.247521095.1751342590.1584728259.1257790315.1578501622

Facemasks/N95 Respirators

Standard Precautions CDC 2003

CDC 2003 Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Healthcare Settings -2003

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5217.pdf> A surgical mask that covers both the nose and mouth and protective eyewear with solid side shields or a face shield should be worn by DHCP during procedures and patient-care activities likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood or body fluids.

FDA: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-and-surgical-masks-face-masks>

CDC Guidelines Regarding Masks:

A surgical mask is a loose-fitting, disposable device that creates a physical barrier between the mouth and nose of the wearer and potential contaminants in the immediate environment. Surgical masks are regulated under 21 CFR 878.4040. Surgical masks are not to be shared and may be labeled as surgical, isolation, dental, or medical procedure masks. They may come with or without a face shield. These are often referred to as face masks, although not all face masks are regulated as surgical masks.

Surgical masks are made in different thicknesses and with different ability to protect you from contact with liquids. These properties may also affect how easily you can breathe through the face mask and how well the surgical mask protects you.

If worn properly, a surgical mask is meant to help block large-particle droplets, splashes, sprays, or splatter that may contain germs (viruses and bacteria), keeping it from reaching your mouth and nose. Surgical masks may also help reduce exposure of your saliva and respiratory secretions to others.

While a surgical mask may be effective in blocking splashes and large-particle droplets, a face mask, by design, does not filter or block very small particles in the air that may be transmitted by coughs, sneezes, or certain medical procedures. Surgical masks also do not provide complete protection from germs and other contaminants because of the loose fit between the surface of the face mask and your face.

Surgical masks are not intended to be used more than once. If your mask is damaged or soiled, or if breathing through the mask becomes difficult, you should remove the face mask, discard it safely, and replace it with a new one. To safely discard your mask, place it in a plastic bag and put it in the trash. Wash your hands after handling the used mask.

N95 Respirators

An N95 respirator is a respiratory protective device designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles.

The 'N95' designation means that when subjected to careful testing, the respirator blocks at least 95 percent of very small (0.3 micron) test particles. If properly fitted, the filtration capabilities of N95 respirators exceed those of face masks. However, even a properly fitted N95 respirator does not completely eliminate the risk of illness or death.

Comparing Surgical Masks and Surgical N95 Respirators

The FDA regulates surgical masks and surgical N95 respirators differently based on their intended use.

A **surgical mask** is a loose-fitting, disposable device that creates a physical barrier between the mouth and nose of the wearer and potential contaminants in the immediate environment. These are often referred to as face masks, although not all face masks are regulated as surgical masks. Note that the edges of the mask are not designed to form a seal around the nose and mouth.

An **N95 respirator** is a respiratory protective device designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles. Note that the edges of the respirator are designed to form a seal around the nose and mouth. Surgical N95 Respirators are commonly used in healthcare settings and are a subset of N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators (FFRs), often referred to as N95s.

The similarities among surgical masks and surgical N95s are:

They are tested for fluid resistance, filtration efficiency (particulate filtration efficiency and bacterial filtration efficiency), flammability and biocompatibility. They should not be shared or reused.

The N95 respirator is the most common of the seven types of particulate filtering facepiece respirators. This product filters at least 95% of airborne particles but is not resistant to oil.

Shortage of PPE Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>

What if a patient or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

Contact the local/county or state health department for specific guidance (e.g., isolate for 14 days) but my need to notify patients that were in the office during the time the patient was there and after.

[CDC https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html)

Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to patients with Coronavirus Disease (COVID_19)

For guidance on assessment and management of exposure risk in non-healthcare settings, refer to the Interim US Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Exposure in Travel-associated or Community Settings. The guidance for non-healthcare settings can also be used to identify the movement, public activity and travel restrictions that apply to the HCP included here.