



KN95 MASKS

Are a type of filtering face mask, often confused with an N95 respirator. KN95s are not considered 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 a tight seal between the mask and the skin. 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.

Given the current shortage of N95s as a result of the pandemic, the UO is required by the Oregon Health Authority and OSHA to limit the use of N95s as much as possible to front line workers. 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 meet the UO's Face Covering Regulation

KN95s:

- Meet the UO face covering regulation
- 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

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. There are some mislabeled masks on the market.
- Always follow the manufacturer's guidance for safe use!
- If you require an N95 for your job or medical need, contact EHS.
- KN95 are available at Science Stores (541-346-4600).
- Bring questions to your supervisor and direct additional questions to EHS.



Example of a KN95 mask.



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

