

Reference: Masks and N95 Respirators on. Page 151– from

Public Health Agency of Canada (2013) Routine Practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in healthcare settings. Retrieved from:

http://www.ipac-canada.org/pdf/2013_PHAC_RPAP-EN.pdf

Masks and N95 Respirators			
Type of Mask	Use	Advantages	Disadvantages
Standard Face Mask ('procedure' mask or 'isolation' mask)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minimal exposure to infectious dropletsShort duration tasksTasks that do not involve exposure to blood/body fluidsProtection from client/patient/resident during transportation outside of room	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inexpensive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Not fluid or water resistant
Fluid Resistant Mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Heavy exposure to infectious droplets or blood/body fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Good comfort and fitFluid resistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expensive
Surgical Mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exposure to infectious droplets or blood/body fluidsLong duration tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Good comfort and fitFluid resistantInexpensive	
NIOSH-certified N95 respirator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection for airborne pathogens	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provides protection from small particle aerosolsBetter face seal prevents leakage around mask	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Requires fit-testing, training and seal-checkingUncomfortable for long periods of use

Adapted from Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Patient Care Policy Manual Section II: Infection Prevention and Control [Policy No: II-D-1200, 'Gloves'. Revised July, 2007 and London Health Sciences Centre, Occupational Health and Safety Services, 'Glove Selection and Use'. Revised April 26, 2005.