

The evidence on influenza, influenza-like and coronaviruses suggest that the use of a medical mask can prevent the spread of infectious droplets. They help slow the spread of the disease and protect individuals.¹

Medical Masks versus Respirators

Medical masks (also referred to as surgical/procedural masks) are considered flat or pleated masks that are affixed with either a head strap or ear straps. Their aim is to allow for adequate filtration and breathability. They are generally tested under standardized methodology however are RARELY certified as a respirator. There are 3 classifications based on velocity of fluid particulates - low velocity (Level 1), medium velocity (Level 2) and high velocity (Level 3).

Respirators, on the other hand, should create a tight seal and fit the wearers face. A respirator is tested to filter agents (particles, gases, vapours) that are greater than 0.3 microns (or 0.0003 mm) in diameter. Particulates include biologicals including viruses and bacteria. An N95 would have a filtration efficiency of 95% meaning that 95% of particles greater than 0.3 microns would be filtered by that mask. In the US, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) evaluates, tests, and certifies N95 respirators. The masks must pass minimum performance requirements, such as filter efficiency and breathing resistance.²

All medical masks and respirators are designed to be single use.

Respirators Approved during COVID-19 in Canada

To expand the availability of medical and non-medical N95 respirators during the pandemic, equivalent alternate standards may also be acceptable. KN95 respirators are similar with respect to design, filtration, performance, and material standards. Health Canada has accepted KN95 as an acceptable standard as long as the mask in question meets filtration standards.³ Medical and commercial (non-medical) KN95 or medical FFP2 respirators (including those with head band or ear loops) that meet standards:

- EN 149-2001 (Medical FFP2)
- GB 2626-2006* (Commercial KN95) *(standard will be replaced with GB 2626-2019 on July 1, 2020)
- GB 19083-2010 (Medical KN95)

¹ Infection prevention and control of epidemic- and pandemic-prone acute respiratory infections in health care. (ISBN 978 92 4 150713 4)

² Brosseau, L and Berry Ann, R. (October 14, 2009) N95 Respirators and Surgical Masks [Blog post], <https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2009/10/14/n95/>

³ Government of Canada (May 31, 2020) COVID-19 medical masks and N95 respirators: Information for health professionals, <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-devices/masks-respirators-covid19/health-professionals.html>

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PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

KN95 - Commercial (Non-Medical) Grade

Pricing:

Qty	Unit Price	Total
2,000	\$2.95	\$5,900
1,000	\$3.00	\$3,000
500	\$3.20	\$3,200
250	\$3.30	\$1,650
100	\$3.50	\$350
50	\$3.75	\$187
10	\$4.00	\$40

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