

Com-Fit® Masks



Frequently Asked Questions

What protection does an ASTM-rated face mask provide?

ASTM-rated mask protects your nose and mouth against aerosols, sprays, and splashes of blood and other bodily fluids, as well as bacteria and particulate matter of the sizes indicated in the table on next page; however, face masks do not provide respiratory protection against airborne diseases. For that purpose, a respirator is required.

What is a respirator?

A respirator is a personal protective device that is worn on your face, covers at least your nose and mouth, requires fit-testing, and is used to reduce your risk of inhaling hazardous airborne particles (including dust particles and infectious agents), gases or vapors.

One of the most commonly used respirators is a NIOSH-approved N95 Respirator mask, which has been tested to filter out at least 95% of airborne particles. A Surgical N95 Respirator is a NIOSH-approved N95 Respirator that has been cleared by the FDA for use as a surgical mask. Unlike other masks, N95 respirators must be fit-tested for each individual to ensure proper protection.

	ASTM-1	ASTM-2	ASTM-3
USAGE	<i>For procedures with <u>light</u> fluid, aerosols and/or sprays</i>	<i>For procedures with <u>low to moderate</u> fluid, aerosols and/or sprays</i>	<i>For procedures with <u>moderate to heavy</u> fluid, aerosols and/or sprays</i>
Fluid Resistance -Synthetic Blood	Low, 80 mmHg	Moderate, 120 mmHg	High, 160 mmHg
Filtration Efficiency	BFE 99.6% @ 3 μm PFE 98.8% @ 0.1 μm	BFE 99.6% @ 3 μm PFE 98.6% @ 0.1 μm	BFE 99.9% @ 3 μm PFE 99.0% @ 0.1 μm
Breathability - Delta P	2.5 mm H ₂ O/cm ²	2.5 mm H ₂ O/cm ²	3.1 mm H ₂ O/cm ²
	Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Exams • Operatory Cleaning/Maintenance • Impressions • Lab Trimming, Finishing, & Polishing • Orthodontics 	Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restorative/Composites • Endodontics • Prophylaxis • Sealants • Scaling & Root Planing • Limited Oral Surgery 	Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown Preparation • Implant Placement • Use of Ultrasonic Scaler • Use of Piezo Scaler with Water • Periodontal Surgery • Complex Oral Surgery

Mask Terms

Fluid Resistance is a mask's resistance, under pressure, to penetration by synthetic blood.

BFE stands for *bacterial filtration efficiency*. It is the percentage of particles filtered out at a pore size of 1.0 to 5.0 microns.

PFE stands for *submicron particle filtration efficiency*. It is the percentage of particles filtered out at a pore size of 0.1 to 1.0 microns.

Delta P is the pressure drop across a mask, or resistance to airflow in mm H₂O/cm². With greater resistance comes better protection, but less breathability.

What are the face mask recommendations regarding COVID-19?

WHO (World Health Organization)

“If you are healthy, you only need to wear a mask if you are taking care of a person with suspected 2019-nCoV infection.”

See additional information at: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novelcoronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>

CDC (Center for Disease Control)

“CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.”

“Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).”

See additional information at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

Want to learn more? Watch this video on Com-Fit Masks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWmasyWrKml&t=4s>