## **UNDERSTANDING** THE DIFFERENCE

## N95 RESPIRATORS, SURGICAL MASKS, AND HOMEMADE CLOTH MASKS









Homemade Cloth

**KN95** 

Testing & **Approval** 

Evaluated, tested, and approved by National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) as per the requirements in 42 CtFR Part 84

Cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

particles, including small particle aerosols and large droplets (only non-oil aerosols)

Protects the wearer against large droplets, splashes, or sprays of bodily or other hazardous fluids

Loose-fitting

Face Seal Fit

Tight-fitting

Loose-fitting

User Seal Check Requirement

Yes. Required each time the respirator is donned (put on)

Filtration

equipment (PPE) for respiratory protection

Leakage

minimal leakage occurs around edges of the respirator when the user inhales

Ideally, discard after each patient encounter and after aerosol-generating procedures

Leakage occurs around the edge of the mask when the user inhales

Leakage can occur around ALL edges of the mask when the user inhales

**Use Limitations** 

Discard when damaged or deformed; no longer forms an effective seal; becomes wet or visibly dirty; breathing becomes difficult; or becomes contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients

Level of Protection

Provides adults 50X the protection of a homemade cloth mask

homemade cloth mask

May "decrease viral exposure and infection risk on a population level" (van der Sande et al., 2008)

## INFORMATION IN THIS RESOURCE COMES FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES AND STUDIES

U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Understanding the difference, surgical mask, N95 respirator. [Infographic]. n.d.; https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/UnderstandDifferenceInfographic-508.pdf. Accessed March 27, 2020.

surgical mask

van der Sande M, Teunis P, Sabel R. Professional and home-made face masks reduce exposure to respiratory Infections among the general population. PLos One. 2008;3(7):e2618.

Based on the current evidence, the Fuld Institute for EBP recommends and supports the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers (HCWs) at all points of care and that HCWs use appropriate PPE consistently and correctly, rather than homemade cloth masks. HCWs should consider homemade cloth masks only as a last resort. (03/31/2020)

\*Comments by KolibriUSA

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