

# NIOSH N95: Surgical vs Standard Respirators

The Dräger X-plore 1750 N95 respirator is a general purpose industrial/commercial N95 Standard Respirator [approved by NIOSH](#). The manufacturer's disclaimer about "not intended for viruses" etc is commonplace for NIOSH N95 Standard Respirators, since they were developed before the pandemic for industrial usage and to make any claims about viruses would trigger FDA and Health Canada to reclassify them as N95 Surgical Respirators - something the manufacturer doesn't intend for an industrial respirator product line.

N95 Surgical Respirators (often blue) have the same  $\geq 95\%$  particulate filtration and NIOSH approval as a Standard Respirator, plus an extra approval by FDA for use as surgical masks. This entails extra testing to protect the wearer from large droplet splashes and sprays of bodily fluids (blood etc). It's not something the general public encounters during a pandemic.

The key point during an airborne pandemic is this Dräger N95 Standard Respirator meets the NIOSH N95 testing and filtration requirements, which means there is a tremendous amount of filtration of airborne particles.

[CDC states](#) that during the SARS-CoV2 COVID-19 pandemic, well-fitting NIOSH-approved respirators (including N95s) offer the highest level of protection, and that the N95 Surgical Respirators type should be reserved for healthcare workers. CDC's [COVID-19 page](#) specifically links to [NIOSH's list of N95 respirators](#) including this Dräger 1750 model 3951329/3951331.

CDC [states](#):

*What to know about NIOSH-approved respirators*

*When worn consistently and properly, they provide the highest level of protection from particles, including the virus that causes COVID-19. Additionally, they contain your respiratory droplets and particles so you do not expose others.*

Health Canada also very clearly [recommends commercially available NIOSH N95 respirators](#) for use in community settings during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that they don't need to be fit tested if they meet the NIOSH requirements.

The Dräger 1750 NIOSH N95 is a very good NIOSH N95 respirator mask for the general public for community use during this pandemic.

For more information on using N95's for SARS-CoV2 (COVID), please see these links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/respirators/factsheets/respsars.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/types-masks-respirators.html>