

## FACE MASKS

### SAFETY FOCUS 06



The use of facemasks will continue to be a part of the 'new normal' as we continue to face the global pandemic of COVID-19. Considerable research into the general use of facemasks and its effectiveness continues to emerge from trusted global resources such as the FDA & CDC. Here are some facts:

- For use by public, the use of simple cloth face coverings can greatly slow the spread of the virus and help people who are unaware they have the virus from spreading it to others.
- Cloth and regular face masks prevent the wearer from spreading droplets but do not protect you from inhaling finer particles and moisture.
- Only facemasks with exterior waterproof layering have increased protection towards inhaling droplets or splashes.
- Certain masks such as medical/surgical masks or N95's respirators provide advanced protection towards finer particles and droplets as they provide a greater seal around the nose and mouth with increased protection against finer droplets. However, governments worldwide are requesting the public to be considerate towards purchase of these masks as they are used by medical front liners.
- Cloth masks with at least 2 layers of fabric provide increased protection.
- Cloth face masks can be regularly washed and disinfected with bleach.
- Cloth masks allow for greater breathability for longer periods of use while preventing the spread of droplets from the wearers' nose & mouth.

The safest way to reduce the spread is by continuing to practice social distancing while maintaining highest levels of hand hygiene.

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