Cloth face covers, surgical masks, N95 and KN95 respirators

**Cloth face covers**
- Cloth face covers aid in the protection of others by reducing respiratory emissions from the wearer but they are not considered personal protective equipment.
- Cloth face covers are an effective measure to reduce the spread of COVID.
- Cloth face covers must be worn on campus by personnel unable to maintain social distancing and in common areas, such as restrooms and elevators.
- Cloth face covers should be laundered with soap and warm water after each day.
- Cloth face covers should fit snugly and comfortably against the side of the face and cover both the nose and mouth completely by securing them with ties or ear loops.
- Cloth face covers should include multiple layers of fabric and be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change in shape in order to be reused.
- Information on making, wearing and maintaining cloth face coverings can be found at Centers for Disease Control.

**N95 respirators**
- N95 respirators selection and use is covered by OSHA’s respiratory protection and PPE standards.
- Medical clearance and fit testing are required before wearing an N95.
- N95 respirators are considered personal protective equipment.
- N95 respirators are evaluated, tested and approved as part of the 42CFR Part 84.
- N95 respirators are worn by healthcare providers, workers in high containment facilities such as BSL3 or ABSL3, and those at risk for infectious aerosol exposure.
- N95 respirators filter out at least 95% of particles that do not contain oil and are designed to protect the wearer from inhaling airborne contaminants such as dusts and infectious agents associated with inhaling small and large particle droplets.

**Surgical masks**
- Surgical masks are loose fitting and do not require fit testing by qualified staff.
- Surgical masks do not provide reliable levels of protection from inhaling small airborne particles and are not considered respiratory protection.
- Surgical masks protect others from respiratory emissions similar to cloth face coverings with an additional benefit.
- Surgical masks protect the nose and mouth from droplets and splattered body fluids.
- Surgical masks should be worn by health care workers performing certain non-COVID related medical procedures and non-health care providers who are at medium or high risk of exposure to COVID.

**KN95 masks**
- KN95 masks are manufactured outside the U.S. and are not approved by NIOSH.
- KN95 masks may be used as an equivalent to surgical face masks, above.
- KN95s must not be used as an equivalent to N95 respirators.
- KN95 may be used similar to an N95 only in a state of emergency if they pass a fit test.

Questions? Contact ASU Environmental Health and Safety at 480-965-1823 or email SafetyPartners@asu.edu.

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