







Facial Protection Comparison Chart

Visual						
Common Name(s)	Cloth, fabric, sponge (homemade)	Non-medical grade 3-ply face coverings (look similar to surgical masks but are not tested or certified)	Nuisance particulate masks (KN95 or no designations/stampings; typically have one head strap or two ear loops)	Level 1, 2, and 3 ASTM procedural, surgical, isolation, or dental masks (medical grade)	N95 Respirators (typically has two head straps; N95 stamped on unit; a protection factor of 10)	Half and Full-Face Respirators (protection factors of 10 and 100 respectively)
Contaminant Protection	Large particulate and possibly some liquid droplets	Large particulate and possibly some liquid droplets	Non-toxic dust, pollen, dander, etc.	Large-particle droplets, splashes, sprays, or splatter that may contain germs (viruses and bacteria)	Particulates only; N = Not resistant to oil; 95 = % filtering efficiency (these masks are also available in R = somewhat resistant to oil and P = oil proof; they are also available in 99 and 100% filtering efficiencies)	Particulates, gases, and/or vapors depending on the cartridges, canisters, and filters attached
Fit/Seal	Loose	Loose	Loose	Loose	Tight	Tight
U.S. Testing or Certification?	No	No	No	Yes - ASTM	Yes - NIOSH	Yes - NIOSH
Applicable Personnel During COVID-19	General Population	General Population	General Population	Medical	Medical	Medical
Use Regulated by BGSU's EHS Department?	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes