Understanding Options to Protect Your Breathing Zone

	Cloth Face Cover	Non-Medical Face Mask	Procedural Mask	Surgical Mask	Filtering Facepiece Respirator	Reusable Respirator
Testing/ Approval	None	None	Cleared by U.S. FDA as a Medical Device	Cleared by U.S. FDA as a Medical Device	Evaluated, tested, and approved by NIOSH as per the requirements in 42 CFR Part 84	Evaluated, tested, and approved by NIOSH as per the requirements in 42 CFR Part 84
Transmission-Based Protection (highest level)	**Not PPE**	**Not PPE**	Droplet = large droplets, splashes, or sprays ASTM levels 2 or 3 ASTM F1862 standard	Droplet = large droplets, splashes, or sprays ASTM levels 2 or 3 ASTM F1862 standard	Airborne = small aerosolized particles Different filtration levels available: 95%, 99%, 100%	Airborne = very small aerosolized particles, gases, & vapors Different filtration levels available: 95%, 99%, 100%
Purpose	Intended to protect people around the wearer from the wearer's respiratory emissions (Source Control). Protection level unknown.	Intended to protect people around the wearer from the wearer's respiratory emissions (Source Control).	Fluid resistant and protects the wearer. Protects the patient from the wearer's respiratory emissions.	Fluid resistant and protects the wearer. Protects the patient from the wearer's respiratory emissions.	Reduces wearer's exposure to particles including small particle aerosols and large droplets (only non-oil aerosols). Not all models protective to patients.	Reduces wearer's exposure to particles including small particle aerosols and large droplets. Not protective to patients.
Intended Use	**Reusable** Laundering between uses is recommended.	**Single-use** Disposable. Discard after each patient encounter.	**Single-use** Disposable. Discard after each patient encounter.	**Single-use** Disposable. Discard after each patient encounter.	**Single-use** Disposable. Discard after each patient encounter.	**Reusable** Must disinfect between each patient encounter.
Face Seal/Fit	Variable – Loose	Loose	Loose	Loose	Tight	Tight & Loose
Fit-Testing Required?	No	No	No	No	Yes – needed once per year for model worn	Yes – Tight No – Loose
User Seal Check Required?	No	No	No	No	Yes – each time the respirator is donned	Yes – Tight No – Loose
Filtration	Unknown	May not provide protection from fluids or may not filter particles	Does NOT provide the wearer with a reliable level of protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles	Does NOT provide the wearer with a reliable level of protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles	Filters out a % of airborne particles including large and small particles	Filters out a % of airborne particles including large and small particles
Leakage	Leakage occurs around the edges of the mask.	Leakage occurs around the edges of the mask.	Leakage occurs around the edges of the mask.	Leakage occurs around the edges of the mask.	Minimal when properly fitted and donned.	Minimal when properly fitted and donned.
Use Limitations	Many variations. Minimal studies done on this type of mask therefore level of protection for user and others is currently unknown. Thought to be protective to people around the user.	Not regulated, unknown how protective they are. Thought to be protective to people around the user.	If this type of mask **does not/meet ASTM levels for fluid protection against large droplets, then it cannot be used as PPE for Droplet** transmission precautions, but can be used as source control.	Need to be prioritized for use during surgical procedures (non-aerosol generating).	User must pass a fit-test for the specific model for it to be considered protective against Airborne transmission. **If a fit-test is not performed annually or is not passed, the respirator is NOT protective against Airborne transmission but can be used for Droplet protection.**	Appropriate time needs to be given for adequate disinfection between each patient interaction.

For strategies on optimizing the use of PPE:
https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/170/Healthcare-Providers under the PPE tab
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html

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