# Respiratory/Eye PPE Selection Chart for Surgical Procedures

## Are airborne particulate hazards present?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="#" alt="Surgical N95 Respirator" /> + <img src="#" alt="Eye Protection" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Surgical N95 Respirator" /> + <img src="#" alt="Eye Protection" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="#" alt="Surgical N95 Respirator" /> + <img src="#" alt="Face Shield" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Surgical N95 Respirator" /> + <img src="#" alt="Face Shield" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="#" alt="Standard N95 Respirator" /> + <img src="#" alt="Face Shield" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Standard N95 Respirator" /> + <img src="#" alt="Face Shield" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Procedure masks
- Procedure masks are loose fitting and are designed to help reduce droplets expelled by the wearer. Surgical masks are FDA cleared, and are also loose-fitting and designed to help reduce droplets expelled by the wearer. In addition, they can be used as a fluid barrier.

### Surgical masks
- Surgical masks are designed to be worn by healthcare professionals during surgery and other medical tasks, to help reduce contamination of the surgical field and/or the patient by blocking some liquid droplets that are expelled by the wearer.

### NIOSH-Approved N95 Respirators (particulate respirators)
- NIOSH-Approved N95 Respirators (particulate respirators) are designed to help reduce the wearer’s exposure to airborne particulate hazards. N95-rated filtering facepiece respirators have a filtration efficiency of at least 95% against non-oily particles when tested using the NIOSH criteria.

### Standard and surgical N95 respirators
- Standard and surgical N95 respirators are both designed to help reduce the wearer’s exposure to airborne particulate hazards. In addition, surgical N95 respirators are FDA cleared as a medical device and can be used as a fluid barrier to splashes and sprays.

### Can you use valved respirators (including elastomeric respirators) in the OR/surgery/in sterile field?
- NIOSH-approved elastomeric respirators with appropriate particulate filters provide respiratory protection at least equivalent to N95 respirators. Some elastomeric respirator assemblies can provide higher assigned protection factors (APFs) and/or greater filter efficiencies than N95 respirators. Elastomeric respirators, however, are not evaluated for fluid resistance or cleared by the FDA as medical devices, as surgical masks and surgical N95 respirators are. FDA says devices used during surgery should be cleared by the FDA as medical devices. CDC and OSHA caution against using respirators with exhalation valves in surgical settings due to some concern of exhaled air coming out of the exhalation valve.*

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* Including COVID-19 as an airborne particulate hazard.

1. In the U.S., surgical/procedure masks and surgical respirators must be cleared by the FDA for use in surgery. Surgical respirators must be also approved by NIOSH.

2. In the U.S., particulate respirators must be approved by NIOSH.

3. "Fluid resistance" refers to testing performed on surgical N95s per ASTM F1862, a standard test method for resistance of medical face masks to penetration by synthetic blood. This test is required because during certain medical procedures, a blood vessel may occasionally be punctured, resulting in a high-velocity stream of blood.


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*When using 3M products it is mandatory to adhere to all safety standards. Always read and follow all product-specific user instructions.*