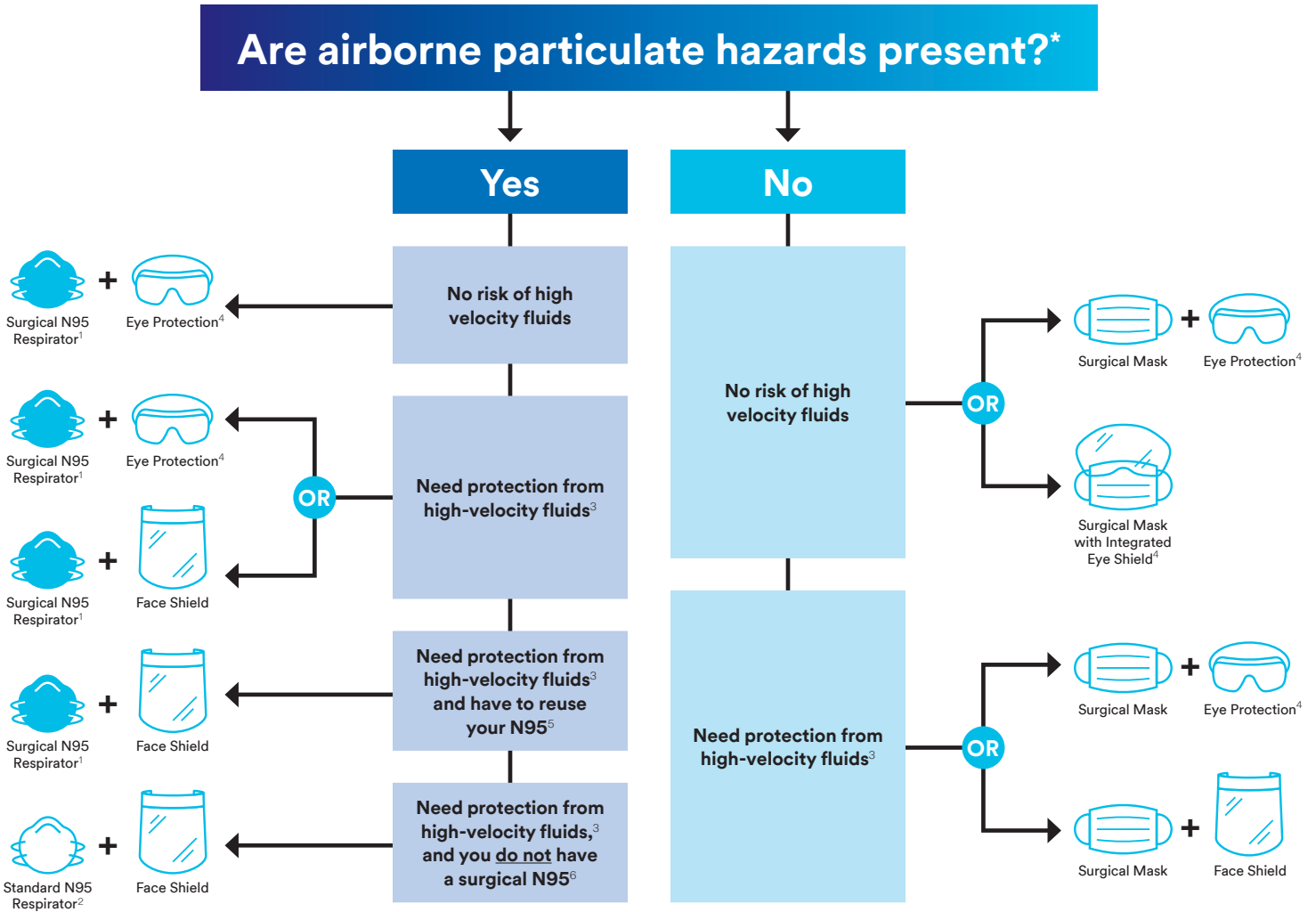
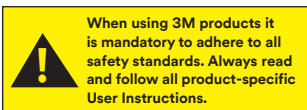


Respiratory/Eye PPE Selection Chart for Surgical Procedures



- | | |
|---|---|
| Q What is the difference between a procedure mask and a surgical mask? | A Procedure masks are loose fitting and are designed to help reduce droplets expelled by the wearer. Surgical masks are FDA cleared, are also loose-fitting and designed to help reduce droplets expelled by the wearer. In addition, they can be used as a fluid barrier. |
| Q What is the difference between an FDA-cleared surgical mask and a NIOSH-approved N95 respirator? | A 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) 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. |
| Q What is the difference between a standard N95 respirator and a surgical N95 respirator? | A 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. |
| Q Can you use valved respirators (including elastomeric respirators) in the OR/surgery/in sterile field? | A 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. ⁷ |



* Including COVID-19 as an airborne particulate hazard.

- 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. During times of respirator shortages, such as pandemics, CDC has recommended the use of unvalved standard N95 respirators in combination with a fluid-resistant faceshield when surgical N95 respirators are not available.
 - In the U.S., particulate respirators must be approved by NIOSH.
 - "Fluid resistance" refers to testing performed on surgical N95s per ASTM F1862, a standard test method for resistance of medical facemasks 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.
 - AORN. Guideline for Preoperative Practice: Transmission-Based Precautions Guidelines for Perioperative Practices. Denver, Colorado: AORN, Inc. 2020
 - Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Pandemic planning: Recommended guidance for extended use and limited reuse of N95 filtering facepiece respirators in healthcare settings. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>. Updated March 27, 2020. Accessed June 19, 2020.
 - Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): Personal protective equipment: questions and answers. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirator-use-faq.html>. Updated March 14, 2020. Accessed June 19, 2020.
 - COVID-19 Decontamination and Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators. (April 30, 2020). Retrieved May 29, 2020, from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/decontamination-reuse-respirators.html>.
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