

Medical Mask vs. Surgical Respirator: A Practical Comparison



Medical Mask



Surgical Respirator

Helps reduce the risk of large particles expelled by the wearer - such as saliva and mucus - from reaching patients.

Often fits loosely, leaving gaps between the mask and your face. Does not require fit testing or user seal checks.

Helps protect the sterile surgical field from contamination by exhaled particles. Fluid-resistant surgical masks help reduce your exposure to blood and body fluids.

In Canada, classified as a Class I Medical Device. In the US, cleared for sale by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Intended Use

Fit

Applications

Certifications and Classifications

Helps reduce wearer exposure to certain airborne particles.

Designed to fit tightly, creating a seal between your face and the respirator. Requires fit testing and user seal checks.

Designed to help reduce both inhaled and expelled particles, including bioaerosols. Meets Public Health Agency of Canada and US CDC guidelines for TB exposure control.*

*Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 7th Edition. Public Health Agency of Canada, February 2014. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Health Care Settings, 2005. MMWR 2005; 54 (No. RR-17): 1-141.

Tested and certified by NIOSH. In Canada classified as a Class I Medical Device. In the US, cleared for sale by the FDA as a surgical mask.

Mask vs. Respirator Decision Tree

Are airborne particulate hazards present?

Yes

Will the person be working in a sterile field, or an environment where potential exposure to high velocity streams of blood exist?

Yes

Surgical respirator

No

Particulate respirator

No

Will the person be working in a sterile field, or an environment where potential exposure to high velocity streams of blood exist?

Yes

Medical mask
or
surgical respirator

No

Procedure mask



Available in Canada from

3M Oral Care

3M Canada

300 Tartan Drive
London, ON N5V 4M9
Canada
1-888-363-3685

3M ESPE Dental Products

2510 Conway Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55144
USA
1-800-634-2249



Warning: Respirators

These respirators help reduce exposures to certain airborne particulates. Before use, the wearer must read and understand the User Instructions provided as a part of the product packaging. A written respiratory protection program must be implemented meeting the requirements of your jurisdiction and/or CSA Z94.4 respiratory standard. **Misuse may result in sickness or death.** For proper use, see package instructions, supervisor, or call 3M PSD Technical Service in Canada at 1-800-267-4414.

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