

# THE FACTS

## On N95 Respirators

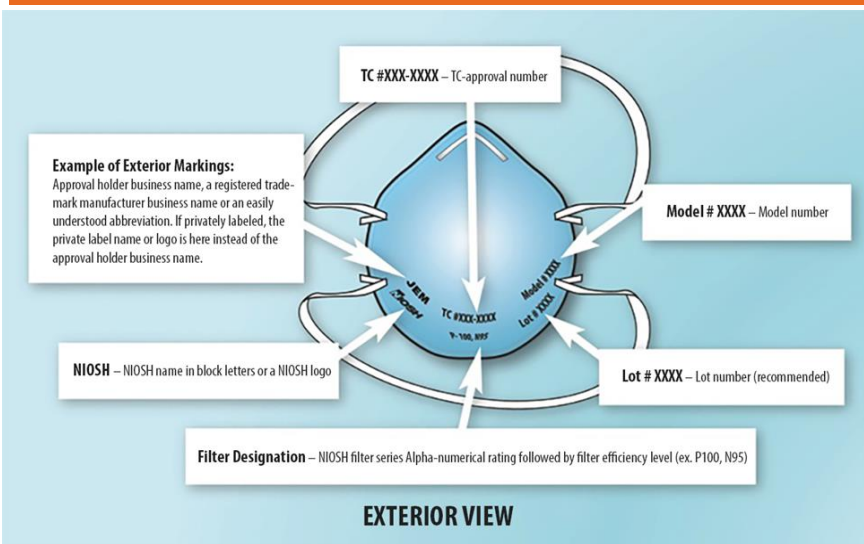


An N95 respirator is a respiratory protective device designed to achieve a close facial fit and efficient filtration of airborne particles. The 'N95' designation means that when subjected to careful testing, the respirator blocks at least 95 percent of very small test particles.

### Safety Tips

- N95 respirators should only be worn when providing patient care or transporting patients that are either confirmed or suspected of Covid-19.
- Perform hand hygiene before and after handling or touching a respirator
- Visually inspect the N95 to determine if its integrity has been compromised.
- Check that components such as the straps, nose bridge, and nose foam material did not degrade. This can affect the quality of the fit, and seal and therefore the effectiveness of the respirator.
- If the integrity of any part of the respirator is compromised, or if a successful user seal check cannot be performed, discard the respirator and try another respirator that you have been fitted for.
- Perform a seal check immediately after donning each respirator and do not use a respirator on which there is not a successful seal check.

If you are unsure how to perform a user seal check, type the following link into your browser:  
<https://youtu.be/pGXiUyAoEd8>



### Storage

- Remove carefully to avoid cross-contamination.
- Practice adequate hand hygiene following removal/storage placement.
- Store in a clean, dry location that prevents contamination.
- Store in a breathable container, such as a paper bag, or hang the respirator in a designated area.
- If stored in a container, label the container with the user's name.
- The container is a **single use** item because the inside can become contaminated from a used respirator.
- Label the respirator with the user's name.

### Practices for Extending the Use and/or Reuse of a Respirator

- A respirator should only be worn and/or reused by a single wearer.
- A respirator should not be removed, adjusted, or touched during patient care.
- Avoid contamination during use by not touching the outside of the respirator.
- Care should be taken to prevent touching the inside of the respirator
- A respirator should be discarded if it becomes grossly contaminated with the patient's body fluids.
- A respirator must be discarded if it becomes obviously soiled, damaged, or if breathing through the device becomes difficult.
- Use a Face shield over the respirator to reduce/prevent contamination of the device. If masks are also in short supply, face shield use should be encouraged to help conserve masks
  - The face shield must be decontaminated between uses.

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