

**IPAC CANADA WEBINAR:  
Respiratory protection: Keeping you safe in the fight against COVID-19**

**THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020  
PRESENTERS: Bev Borst, Tara Willemssen  
Sponsored by 3M Canada**

1. Luce Ouellet: Is filter piece elastomeric NIOSH approved or consider in another category.  
**A:** Yes, a reusable elastomeric facepiece respirator is a NIOSH-approved respirator.
2. Eleanor Paget: Do Elastomeric respirators have an exhalation valve? and if they do is there a concern that the particles expelled by a wearer is not filtered as it leaves the mask.  
**A:** Yes, Elastomeric Reusable respirators have exhalation valves. Healthcare workers may wear valved or unvalved respirators to help reduce their exposure to potentially infectious aerosols. Healthcare workers should wear a surgical respirator (which usually do not have valves) if they require respiratory protection while performing patient care tasks that might generate a high-pressure stream of liquid such as arterial spray.

The U.S. CDC has stated the following with regard to valved respirators and treatment of patients with COVID-19: "An N95 respirator with an exhalation valve does provide the same level of protection to the wearer as one that does not have a valve. The presence of an exhalation valve reduces exhalation resistance, which makes it easier to breathe (exhale). Some users feel that a respirator with an exhalation valve keeps the face cooler and reduces moisture build up inside the facepiece. However, respirators with exhalation valves should not be used in situations where a sterile field must be maintained (e.g., during an invasive procedure in an operating or procedure room) because the exhalation valve allows unfiltered exhaled air to escape into the sterile field."

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirator-use-faq.html>

3. Luce Ouellet: Are o2 elastomeric respirator protect for SARS cov-2.  
**A:** Please follow-up with the manufacturer of this product.
4. Luce Ouellet: Can you comment on KN95  
**A:** A KN95 is a respirator tested and certified to the China standard GB2626-2006. For further details, please refer to the 3M technical bulletin comparing a KN95 to other similar disposable respirators including NIOSH-approved N95.  
<https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/1791500O/comparison-ffp2-kn95-n95-filtering-facepiece-respirator-classes-tb.pdf>

5. Sylvie Dwyer: Medical Mart sent out information re: a reusable "O2 Curve" mask. Are you familiar with this mask? It says that it "provides superior protection compared to N95 masks" . It is facial hair compatible. I see nowhere that it is NIOSH approved.

**A:** Please consult with the manufacturer of this product. You can also verify if a product has been tested/certified by NIOSH on their Certified Equipment List. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/respirators/cel/default.html>

6. Luce Ouellet: Ok but they meet the same criteria on resistance to splashes I was under the impression NIOSH depended on ASTM for testing ?

**A:** NIOSH test and certifies respirators. ASTM testing is separate and not part of the NIOSH testing.

7. Dominique Masse: Sylvie, I read on their site that O2 curve is not NIOSH certified but are working on it

8. LHSC - Victoria Hospital: Any comment on the Clearmask approvals for PPE for COVID by Health Canada? They meet Level 3 AAMI but cannot be tested for BFE. We have a need for something for our hearing impaired community. Please advise

Gerry Hansen: An IPAC Canada representative is working with the Canadian Society of Audiologists to develop their COVID-19 guidelines. If you have specific questions around Audiology, let me know and I will connect you with our rep.

9. Rebekah Baird: are we saying COVID counts as a particulate hazard? in the decision tree, what does dental fall on?

**A:** A biological hazard is a particulate. The decision tree was designed for a healthcare professionals; therefore a dentist could follow this decision tree.

10. Cheryl Collins: I know you said the coloured side on the surgical/procedure mask is always worn facing out. Is there a reason for this such as filtering properties? I have some staff that say they can feel "fibres" on their face so choose to wear it with coloured side in.

**A:** Surgical Masks are designed and tested to worn with the coloured side facing outward. Follow manufacturer's directions for use.

11. Tanya Cowley: Any recommendations for those who are in workplaces where they are to reuse their N95 Respirator? With the understanding that these items should only be used one time and disposed of afterwards.

**A:** 3M directs you to regulatory authorities for direction on re-use during this pandemic. The US CDC has guidance on extended use and reuse and can be found at this site:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

Health Canada has similar guidance and it can be found here:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment/medical-masks-respirators/health-professionals.html>

12. Clare Barry: Did you indicate to release it every 2 hours?

**A:** When possible, the National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel recommends that you remove any snug or tight-fitting PPE from your face at least every 2 hours.

13. Suzette Nascimento: what product would you recommend for those with allergies to a procedure mask? Would it be the same as a N95 recommendation?

**A:** If a person has suspected allergies to a mask or respirator, they should request product composition information from the manufacturer and consult with their physician.

14. Michael Tsang: can N95's be put aside e.g. for a week in a paper bag to 'decontaminate'

**A:** The US CDC has outlined strategies for extended use which includes storage of a disposable NIOSH-approved N95 in a paper bag and reusing it with a minimum 5 days between each use. For full details, please go to this website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/decontamination-reuse-respirators.html>

15. Sharon Connell: if release the pressure every 2 hours, how long does the break need to last before another mask can be reapplied?

**A:** According to NPIAP 2020: "Remove the mask from your face for 15 minutes every 2 hours outside of areas of patient contact. If this time frame is not practical, attempt to lift the mask by the sides for 5 minutes every 2 hours.

Any pressure relief will be helpful. Wash hands before and after touching mask. (Good Practice Statement)".

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/npiap.com/resource/resmgr/position\\_statements/Mask\\_Position\\_Paper\\_FINAL\\_fo.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/npiap.com/resource/resmgr/position_statements/Mask_Position_Paper_FINAL_fo.pdf)

16. Lisa H: recommendation for HCW to wear surgical/procedure mask continuous during their shift 8 or 12 hours and seeing many Health care workers with skin breakdown issues

17. Suzanne Desaulniers: Can you clarify are level 2 masks = procedural, Level 3 = Surgical?

**A:** ASTM F2100 Standard outlines 5 criteria to meet for each level (Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3). The only difference between a Level 2 or Level 3 medical masks is the fluid resistance criteria. The other 4 criteria are the same between Level 2 and Level 3. A level 2 mask meets 120 mmHg for fluid resistance and a level 3 masks meets 160 mmHg for fluid resistance.

18. Sylvie Dwyer: In the dental setting they don't specify surgical (medical) N95 vs. non-medical N95. Would the amount of splash of splash in a dental setting qualify as heavy splashes of body fluids?

**A:** Please refer to the regulatory authority in your region for specific recommendations for dental professionals. Fluid resistance is for high velocity blood or bodily fluid. The dental professional needs to assess their need for a standard or surgical N95. Many of the current guidance refers to the use of a fit tested NIOSH-approved N95 respirator for aerosol generating procedures.

19. Amanda: I believe you said that Elastomeric masks should not be used within the OR suite. Can you confirm that I heard this correctly? This would be because of high velocity blood as well as the release of some of the wearer's particulate?

**A:** That is correct, it is not recommended to wear an elastomeric reusable respirator in the OR.

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20. Renee Polsoni: can a level 1-3 procedural or surgical mask be left for a couple of days to be used in the case of use in the community?

Renee Polsoni: sorry left to then be reused as long as it is donned and doffed correctly?

**A:** We are not aware of any guidance for reuse or extended use for procedural or surgical masks.

For more information on the presentation

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