

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Surgical face mask ↔ Respiratory mask



Surgical face mask



Respiratory mask

What is the purpose of the mask?	To protect against penetration by sprayed liquids. To protect others against droplets in the air exhaled by the wearer.	To filter out particles and aerosols. To protect the wearer against inhalation of minute airborne particles and droplets.
Who should wear this mask?	Medical and nursing personnel who wish to protect patients against air exhaled by the personnel themselves.	Where the mask has no exhalation valve and has also been approved as a medical device: medical and nursing personnel and emergency services personnel, for protection of these persons themselves against the transmission of viruses and bacteria during direct contact with potentially infected persons. For all non-medical applications, with or without valve: persons seeking protection against dusts and aerosols containing viruses and bacteria.
Is the mask worth using in a non-occupational situation?	The mask may be beneficial for the protection of other persons in a non-occupational situation when the wearer believes that he or she may be spreading pathogens. For persons wishing to protect themselves, the general hygiene rules for the population as recommended by the Robert Koch Institute are sufficient. The most important of these rules is: Keep your distance. A distance of at least 1.50 metres should be kept to other persons.	In non-occupational situations, the general hygiene rules for the population as recommended by the Robert Koch Institute are sufficient. The most important of these rules is: Keep your distance. A distance of at least 1.50 metres should be kept to other persons.
Can the mask be used without the provision of particular guidance?	Yes.	No. Instruction must be provided in use of the mask in order for its protective effect to be assured. For example, wearers must be informed that the protective effect may be impaired or even fully negated if they have a beard.
What protection does the mask provide?	The mask does NOT reliably protect the wearer against inhalable airborne particles and/or viruses and bacteria.	Provided it is used correctly, the mask filters at least 78% of the airborne particles and/or viruses out of the air breathed by the wearer.
How well does the mask seal against the face?	The mask does not seal against the face.	When used correctly, the mask permits minor leaks (of up to 2%) during inhalation.
For how long can the mask be used?	This mask is a disposable product and may only be used once before it is discarded.	Depending upon its classification, this mask may be worn for an eight-hour shift, or may be re-used (refer to the instructions for use).
Who tests the mask?	The mask is tested by the manufacturer in accordance with EN 14683, the standard for medical face masks. Certification is performed by the manufacturer.	Testing is performed in accordance with EN 149, the standard for "filtering half masks to protect against particles". Certification and inspection are performed by an independent certification body.