

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT FACE MASKS

YOU HAVE A FACE MASK. THIS MAKES YOU INVINCIBLE, RIGHT? WRONG!

A face mask can only protect you so far. Think of it more as a moderate "sneeze control", controlling your own germ spreading rather than an invincible shield.



FACE MASK VS. N95 RESPIRATOR

A surgical face mask is different from a N95 respirator. A N95 respirator has a filtration efficiency of 95% for particles as small as 0.3 microns. A surgical mask has a filtration efficiency of 60-80%.



LINKS TO WEBSITES

- <https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-homemade-mask-material-DIY-face-mask-ppe.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- <https://twitter.com/digeoame/status/1245872675559530496>



DIY FACE MASKS - NOT ALL FABRICS ARE CREATED EQUAL

A good trick in determining how effective your chosen fabric will be is holding the fabric up to the light. If light easily passes through and you can almost see the fibers in the fabric, that fabric probably isn't the best to use. But be careful not to choose a fabric that is too dense - you still want to be able to breathe!



CHOOSING A FILTER FOR YOUR DIY FACE MASK

Choosing the right filter for your DIY face mask is important. Layered coffee filters have been shown to provide a moderate filtration control. While furnace filters have had better filtration efficiencies compared to coffee filters, you run the risk of inhaling the microscopic fiber glass particles.

