



Select the right mask for the task:

Application of masks in response to COVID-19 Pandemic

All procedure/surgical masks currently available in the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) meet the standard to protect health care workers (HCWs) from COVID-19 in the setting of non- aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) from a particle filtration perspective. The use of N95 respirators should be reserved for care of probable or confirmed COVID-19 positive patients undergoing AGMPs.

An expert panel has reviewed existing research and evidence and has advised that for routine care of suspected/confirmed COVID patients (or influenza like illness (ILI) patients of all kinds) a **level 1 procedure/surgical mask provides appropriate protection**. Level 2 and 3 procedure/surgical masks should be preserved for situations (e.g. OR, trauma rooms, ICU, etc.) where fluid contamination at pressures above 80mmHg are anticipated (see chart below).

COVID-19 Spread

The COVID-19 virus is spread mainly from person-to-person in close contact with one another, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes and by the host touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching mucus membrane.

COVID-19 Precautions

The precautions applied for COVID-19 includes [Droplet/Contact PLUS precautions](#) with the addition of an N95 respirator for [aerosol-generating medical procedures](#) (AGMPs), hand hygiene and environmental cleaning and disinfection (including shared equipment).

Mask Level*	1	2	3	N95 Respirator
Use	All droplet/contact (non-AGMP) Patient care	All droplet/contact (non-AGMP) Patient care	All droplet/contact (non-AGMP) Patient care	COVID-19 Patient with AGMP procedure
Examples of Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine care of patient with Droplet/contact precautions Procedures generating sprays/fluids <80mmHg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central venous line insertion Procedures generating sprays/fluids 80-120mmHg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardiac surgery Care of the mechanically ventilated patient Procedures generating sprays/fluids >120mmHg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intubation

* Eye protection is required for all droplet/contact precautions in addition to the appropriate mask