

Using a Respirator Mask (N95 or KN95) vs. a Simple Medical (Procedure) Mask

KN95 or N95 masks should be prioritized for those providing direct care to youth with test-positive or suspected COVID-19. This includes primarily:

- Residential treatment center staff
- Staff transporting youth with symptoms

Simple medical masks should be used in other environments:

- Offices where social distancing cannot be maintained
- Staff at congregate care facilities
- Workers entering homes or performing other face to face visits
- Youth who are being transported or who show symptoms

Medical masks should be applied immediately to any individual (youth or staff) who develops symptoms until the individual is moved to isolation or sent home, **unless the individual is in respiratory distress, is unable to remove the mask themselves or is under the age of two.**

Guidance for Extended Use and Reuse of Masks

This chart is intended to guide DCFS and POS staff in the use and reuse of masks. Staff should use their own judgment to determine when to replace a mask.

| N95 and KN95 Masks* | Procedure Mask |
|---|---|
| The mask should not be worn for more than 8 hours, continuous or intermittent, in dirty places that could result in high filter loading (industrial use or known infectious disease). | The mask should not be used for more than one day but may be removed and reapplied throughout the day if there are no concerns for contamination. |
| Do not use if there is difficulty breathing or the mask is soiled, damaged or distorted. These situations would call for the mask to be replaced. | Do not use if the mask is soiled, damaged or distorted. These situations would call for the mask to be replaced. |
| The maximum times that the mask can be used is five (5) consecutive calendar days, including days of non-use, from the first day of use. | The mask should be removed from the back (by the elastic bands or ties) to avoid touching the front of the mask. Care should also be taken not to touch the inside of the mask with possibly contaminated fingers. |
| Hang used respirators in a designated storage area or keep them in a clean, breathable container such as a paper bag between uses. To minimize potential cross-contamination, store respirators so that they do not touch each other and the person using the respirator is clearly identified. | Facemasks should be folded in half with the outer surface inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface during storage. The folded mask can be stored between uses in a clean paper bag or breathable container. Masks should be re-applied touching only the elastic bands or ties. |

*For detailed guidance on extended use and reuse of masks, please see
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>