

3M™ Health Care Particulate Respirator and Surgical Mask

Commonly Asked Questions

Question:

How is a respirator different from a surgical mask?

Answer:

Surgical masks are designed to help reduce patient or health care worker exposures from wearer-generated microorganisms. Fluid resistant masks also help reduce potential exposure of the wearer to blood and body fluids.

Respirators are designed to help protect the wearer from certain airborne contaminants. They also have a snug fit around the face to help avoid leaks where contaminants may enter. Most surgical masks do not have the same filtering capability and typically do not have the same snug fit and, consequently, cannot replace respirators in helping provide respiratory protection. The 1860 and 1870 3M Particulate Respirator and Surgical Masks are both certified as a respirator by NIOSH and are cleared to be used as surgical masks in the OR by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Question:

Are the 1860, 1860S and 1870 respirators appropriate for reducing exposure to *M. tuberculosis*?

Answer:

These particulate respirators are appropriate where the use of an N95 respirator is recommended. They meet the criteria for a respirator given in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Health Care Facilities, 1994. OSHA accepts the use of an N95 respirator during occupational exposure to TB.

Question:

Can the 1860 or 1870N95 respirator be used in surgery?

Answer:

Yes. Both the 1860 and 1870 respirators are cleared for use as a surgical mask by the FDA. In addition to being N95 respirators, they also provide greater than 99% bacterial filtration efficiency against wearer generated particles according to the Modified Greene and Vesley test method. They are also fluid resistant to help reduce exposure to blood and body fluids. When worn properly and in combination with protective eyewear, they comply with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard. Fit testing is not required when worn solely as a surgical mask.

Question:

Can the 1860 and 1870 respirators be used for laser and electrocautery procedures?

Answer:

Yes! In addition to recommended healthcare procedures that a smoke evacuator should be used to reduce the amount of smoke in the environment, these respirators may be used to further reduce the wearer's exposure to electrocautery and laser plume, offering higher filtration and increased facial seal over standard surgical masks.

Question:

Do respirators require fit testing?

Answer:

Yes! OSHA requires that a respiratory protection program be developed for the proper use of these products as with all respirators when used for respirator protection. This includes written procedures, medical screening, training and fit testing. 3M offers the FT-10 Qualitative Fit Test Apparatus, which uses a saccharin aerosol, or the FT-30 Qualitative Fit Test Apparatus, which uses a bitter aerosol, for fit testing. These 10-20 minute fit test procedures demonstrate that an employee can attain a good face fit with a given style respirator.



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For More Information

Contact your 3M Health Care Sales Representative, or call the 3M Health Care Customer Helpline at **1-800-228-3957**.

These products can be ordered from your local distributor.

Outside the United States, contact the local 3M subsidiary.