THE FACTS—KN95

KN95 masks reduce the amount of dust or virus particles a person breathes in by approximately 95 percent. A KN95 provides better protection for the wearer than other face masks, while also reducing the spread of the virus from the wearer.

How do I properly use my KN95?

- Sanitize your hands immediately before and after putting your KN95 on and immediately before and after taking it off when planning to reuse it.
- Unfold your mask and flatten the metal nose clip.
- Place the mask over your face, with the bottom below your chin and the nosepiece up.
- Place the straps of the mask over each of your ears.
- Adjust the metal nose clip using fingers from both hands to mold the clip to the shape of your nose.
- Adjust fit as necessary to reduce air flow around the mask.
- Significant facial hair (more than 3-days growth) adversely affects the ability of the KN95 to form a tight seal around your face and thus reduces the KN95’s effectiveness at protecting you from COVID-19. Therefore, parts of your face that come in contact with the KN95 should be free of significant facial hair.
- Remove your KN95 if you experience trouble breathing and seek medical advice.

How is a KN95 different from an N95?

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does not consider a KN95 mask a negative-pressure respirator since it has not been certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).
- OSHA does not require a person be “fit tested” to wear a KN95. Since a person is not fit tested for a KN95, they should not use a KN95 in situations where a fit-tested N95 mask is required (for example, in clinical areas or for certain medical procedures).
- The CDC recommends that N95s be reserved for use by health care providers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

How should I care for and store my KN95?

- Please DO NOT attempt to wash your KN95. With proper care, your KN95 should be reusable for an extended period of time.
- To keep your KN95 clean between uses, store your mask in a safe location that other people cannot access and where it will not get wet or be subject to direct sunlight or excessive heat.
- A dry paper bag works well for storing your KN95.

When should I discard my KN95?

You should replace your KN95 when it:

- Becomes soiled
- No longer covers the nose and mouth
- Has stretched out or damaged ties or straps
- Cannot stay on the face
- Has holes or tears in the fabric
- KN95 may be disposed of in the normal trash.

Quick Link

Please see the link or scan the QR code to see video on how to properly wear a K95.

Link: KN95 video - YouTube

DEHS: Who We Are & What We Do

The Department of Environmental Health & Safety (DEHS) is a team of dedicated professionals who provide safety and compliance services to support the core mission of safety, service and stewardship. We accomplish this through collaboration and partnerships with the University community and are committed to continuous improvement and exceptional customer service.

Scan QR code to access UofL DEHS home page for information, questions and contact information.