

Q&A - Why change into a hospital issued surgical mask?

1. Q: Is the KN95 mask of higher quality than a surgical mask?

A: The KN95 is not approved in Canada and has not gone through Health Canada's rigorous testing to ensure it meets all requirements in keeping individuals safe. They hold no accepted validations, like the masks we issue. The surgical mask that is being offered to you is approved and safe to use for your visit to the hospital today.

Learn more:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment/medical-masks-respirators/authorization.html>

2. Q: Will putting my surgical mask over my other mask give me more protection?

A: This is not recommended as an infection prevention and control practice. Double masking of a surgical mask will not give you better protection and it is not recommended by the Public Health Agency of Canada. People that double mask have a higher risk of self-contamination because the masks don't fit well and need to be adjusted a lot more. Also, wearing multiple masks can make it difficult to breathe and can encourage you to take off their masks to catch your breath, putting you at risk. One surgical mask will provide you with sufficient protection during your visit.

Learn more:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/covid-19-safely-use-non-medical-mask-face-covering.html>

3. Q: Why are staff wearing N95s when I cannot wear mine?

A: There is temporary guidance from Public Health Ontario that requires staff to wear fit-tested N95 respirators when caring for confirmed, suspected, or presumptive COVID-19 patients. As a visitor, you will not be interacting with these patients. Because we cannot confirm the condition or the effectiveness of your KN95 or N95 respirator, a surgical mask will keep you safe while you are here.

Learn more:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/updated-ipac-measures-covid-19.pdf?la=en>