



GUIDANCE FOR USE OF ENHANCED FACE COVERINGS (KN95)

This document provides guidance about the protection provided by a KN95 mask against SARS-CoV-2 (causative agent of Covid-19), how to wear a KN95, and how to care for the mask.

Wearing a face covering is a complement to other important community and self-protection measures, including:

- Get the COVID-19 vaccine and a booster if you have not already done so. The vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and your family, friends, classmates, and co-workers from COVID-19.
- Self-monitor for symptoms and stay home when ill. Get tested if you experience any symptoms or if you have been in contact with someone who is infected. If you should test positive, promptly notify UNL's Covid Response Team at covid19@unl.edu.
- Wash hands often and thoroughly (scrubbing for at least 20sec), take advantage of hand sanitizer when available to compliment frequent washing of hands.
- Practice physical distancing when feasible.
- Refrain from touching the face, eyes, nose, and mouth.

What is a KN95?

KN95 masks meet design standards observed in China. They are not designed to the standards observed in the United States for respirators. The KN95 mask is considered an “enhanced” face covering. When worn properly, a KN95 mask fits snugly against the user’s face, thereby providing a higher level of protection against viral particles than cloth masks, paper masks, or surgical masks.

How do I properly use my KN95?

- Avoid facial make-up, lotions, etc. in the area where the mask will form a seal to the face. This will reduce soiling of the mask. Facial hair will adversely affect the seal between the KN95 and the face, reducing the mask’s effectiveness. It is advisable to be clean-shaven when using a KN95.
- Wash or sanitize your hands immediately before handling your KN95.
- Unfold the 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.
- If you wear glasses and find fogging to be a nuisance, wash the lenses with soapy water and shake off the excess before putting on your mask (wipe off nose piece to minimize skin irritation), or use an anti-fogging product.

How should I care for and store my KN95?

DO NOT attempt to wash or otherwise disinfect your KN95. Store your mask in a dry paper bag, and in a manner that protects the mask from becoming distorted or misshapen. Store in a clean, dry, temperature-moderate area away from potential sources of contamination (e.g., chemical vapors, dirt, etc.). If you have more than one mask, store each in a separate bag and rotate days of use between them, allowing each mask a “rest period” between uses. If your mask is stored in an area shared with others, label the bag with your name.

When should I discard my KN95? You should replace your KN95 whenever it:

- Becomes visibly soiled
- Becomes wet
- No longer forms a tight seal to the face
- Has stretched out or damaged ear loops or nose pieces
- Has holes, tears, or other damage to the fabric
- Has been used for five days, even if none of the above are observed

A KN95 may be disposed of in the normal trash.

How do I safely remove the mask and put it back on?

To Doff (remove) facemask with intent to reuse

1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Remove mask by holding the ear loops. Remove slowly and carefully.
 - a. After removing facemask, visually inspect it. If soiled (dirty), torn, distorted, or wet the mask should be discarded.
3. If the facemask is suitable for re-use, place it in a paper bag for storage.
4. Perform hand hygiene

To Re-Don Mask

1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Hold mask at ear loops
3. Place over face and secure loops behind the ears.
4. Adjust mask to ensure proper fit to face
5. Perform hand hygiene