Differences between cloth face covering, mucosal protection and respiratory protection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviations:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CFC—cloth face covering</td>
<td>ABSL3—Animal Biosafety Level 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO—International Organization for Standardization</td>
<td>PAPR—Powered Air-Purifying Respirator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCW—health care worker</td>
<td>42 CFR Part 84—Federal regulation for certifying air-purifying particulate respirators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIOSH—National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSHA—Occupational Safety and Health Administration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSL3—Biosafety Level 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cloth Face Covering**

- Nonpharmaceutical measure to decrease spread of the virus
- CFC should
  - fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
  - be secured with ties or ear loops
  - include multiple layers of fabric
  - allow for breathing without restriction
  - be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape
- Home made or commercial
- Who wears it?
  - I wear it for you and you wear it for me

**Face Mask (surgical mask, procedure mask)**

- Personal protective equipment
- Surgical masks help protect your nose and mouth from splattered body fluids
- Should be worn as part of standard precautions or droplet precautions
- Cleared by US Food & Drug Administration
- Can be "medical grade" if produced in an ISO-accredited facility, or can be commercially produced for many other purposes
- Loose fitting
- No fit testing required
- Does not provide reliable level of protection from inhaling small airborne particles
- Surgical mask only provides barrier protection against large-particle droplets and does not effectively filter inhaled small particles, fumes, or vapors
- It is not considered respiratory protection
- Disposable
- Who wears it?
  - non-health care providers at medium/high risk of exposure
  - HCW performing medical procedures such as surgery or other treatments
  - patients or others with symptoms to prevent spread of the virus to health-care providers or caretakers

**Filtering Facepiece Respirator (N95, elastomeric)**

- Personal protective equipment
- Evaluated, tested and approved by NIOSH as part of the 42CFR Part 84
- Filters out at least 95% of very small (0.3 micron) particles
- A respirator is designed to protect the wearer from inhaling airborne contaminants such as dusts, fumes, vapors, and infectious agents associated with inhaling small and large particle droplets; guidance on appropriate selection and use is covered by OSHA's respiratory protection and PPE standards.
- Medical clearance and fit testing is required
- Adequate seal to face is required—tight fitting
- Seal check required after donning
- A successful fit test is completed for the use of a specific brand/make/model/size of respirator used for the test.
- Who wears it?
  - healthcare providers,
  - workers in high containment facilities (BSL3/ABSL3)

**Powered Air Purifying Respirator**

- Personal protective equipment
- Evaluated, tested and approved by NIOSH as part of 42 CFR Part 84
- PAPR uses a blower to force the ambient air through air-purifying elements to the inlet covering.
- If it is a loose-fitting facepiece, the respiratory inlet covering is designed to form a partial seal with the face.
- Both training for use and maintenance are required
- Requires medical clearance but not a fit-test
- Provides eye protection
- Reusable components and replaceable parts
- Who wears it?
  - healthcare providers,
  - workers in high containment facilities (BSL3/ABSL3)
References: