Understanding Mask Types

ADA®

	SURGICAL (LEVEL 3) MASK	N95 MASK*
Testing and Approval	Cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	Evaluated, tested, and approved by NIOSH as per the requirements in 42 CFR Part 84
Sizing	No	Yes. The sizing differs with each mask model. Some of the sizing options include small, small/medium, medium, medium/large, and large.
Intended Use and Purpose	Fluid resistant and provides the wearer protection against large droplets, splashes, or sprays of bodily or other hazardous fluids. Protects the patient from the wearer's mask emissions	Reduces wearer's exposure to particles including small particle aerosols and large droplets (only non-oil aerosols). OSHA recommends certifying the authenticity of masks to insure they provide the expected protection.
Face Seal Fit+	Loose-fitting	Tight-fitting**
Fit Testing+ Requirement	No	Temporary lifting of annual fit test enforcement requirement.
User Seal Check Requirement	No	Yes. Required each time the mask is donned (put on)
Use Limitations	Disposable. Discard after each patient encounter.	Ideally should be discarded after each aerosol-generating patient encounter. It should also be discarded when it becomes damaged or deformed; no longer forms an effective seal to the face; becomes wet or visibly dirty; breathing becomes difficult; or if it becomes contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients.

*OSHA video on mask seal check: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGXiUyAoEd8 .
Facial hair may affect the fit of the mask: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/FacialHairWmask11282017-508.pdf

+Note: A seal test is a user test performed by the wearer every time the mask is put on to insure that the mask is properly seated to the face.
If not, it needs to be adjusted. A fit test is used to determine appropriate mask size for the individual.

**A mask that does not fit does not protect you, meaning that you should not rely on it to protect you from infection.