

WHO reviewing face mask policy

The World Health Organisation is considering changing its advice on the wearing of face masks after new research suggests coronavirus particles may be projected much further than previously thought

MAIN TYPES OF MEDICAL FACE MASK



■ **Surgical mask:** Fits loosely over mouth and nose. Helps prevent spread of large respiratory droplets when wearer coughs and sneezes.

Does not protect against smaller airborne particles. Leakage occurs around edge of mask when user inhales. Designed for one-time use



■ **N95 respirator:** Fits tightly to face. When user inhales, minimal leakage occurs around edges if respirator is properly fitted and donned.

Gives wearer greater protection against airborne viruses, filtering out at least 95 percent of small particles

WEARING FACE MASKS (current WHO guidelines)

■ Masks are only effective if combined with frequent hand-washing and used and disposed of properly

■ Wear mask if you are coughing or sneezing

■ Healthy people only need mask if they are caring for others suspected of being infected

► **High-speed image of human sneeze:** Fast-moving cloud of gas contains droplets of varying sizes – smallest of which can reach up to 8m away, according to U.S. research. Current WHO guidance is to keep distance of at least 1m from anyone coughing or sneezing to avoid risk of infection

