

# KN95 MASKS

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## What is a KN95?

- A KN95 is a close-fitting mask
- It does not meet the US standard set by NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) to be considered a respirator for healthcare workers.
- KN95s usually have ear loops rather than head straps. NIOSH approved N95 respirators always have head straps.



## History of KN95 use in the US

- During national personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages in 2020-2021, KN95s were allowed to be used as respirators in the United States to meet the demand created by the pandemic. This was considered emergency use authorization.
- In July 2021, the FDA removed emergency use authorization of KN95 masks as approved respirators.

**KN95 masks should NOT be used when caring for quarantining, suspected or confirmed COVID-19 residents on Aerosol Contact Isolation Precautions!**

## KN95s Can be Used Safely When

- Source control in the general population – this means wearing a mask to protect other people from your germs
- For visitors entering a long-term care facility
- Follow policy and regulations regarding KN95 source control use in your facility

## Resources

Revoked EUA for KN95s (July 6, 2021)

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/revoked-euas-non-niosh-approved-disposable-filtering-facepiece-respirators#imported>

FDA FAQs on non-NIOSH respirators.

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/faqs-euas-non-niosh-approved-respirators-during-covid-19-pandemic>

Masks and Respirators General Information

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html>

N95 and other respirators

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/n95-other-respirators.html>

