

# FAQs for Shield™ High-Efficiency Face Mask

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## What is the Shield High-Efficiency Face Mask?

It is a disposable, pleated face mask designed to reduce the risk of transmission of airborne organisms and particles.

## Why is filtration value an important feature for masks?

Masks should protect healthcare workers and patients from airborne bacteria and particles. Bacteria are about 1.0 to 3.0 microns. The mask material and pore size determines filtration efficiency. Shield features triple layer construction with independent lab testing showing filtration at 0.1 micron, filtering out the tiniest bacteria.

## How often should I change my mask?

During procedures that produce aerosols including use of high speed handpieces, powered scaling devices, and instrument cleaning, change the mask every 15 - 20 minutes. Even normal breathing will make a mask too wet for effective filtration after about 30 minutes. Masks should also be changed when they are visibly wet, soiled or between patients. Shield masks feature Fluid Gard™ which provides maximum fluid resistance while allowing breathability.

## How does proper fit of the mask provide better protection?

Masks that conform to the face and prevent "blow-by" provide better protection. The Shield mask is designed with PFL - Positive Facial Lock. The built in nose and chin pieces allow the wearer to conform the mask closely to the bridge of the nose, chin and cheeks for a perfect fit that prevents inhalation of contamination around the edges of the mask.

## How can we improve compliance with mask use in our facility?

Comfortable masks tend to encourage compliance. Avoid products that contain latex or fiberglass. Make sure that masks are readily available in all rooms. Pleated latex-free Shield mask is soft and comfortable.