

FAQs for Shield™ High-Efficiency Face Mask



What is the Shield High-Efficiency Face Mask?

It is a disposable pleated mask designed to reduce transmission of airborne organisms, particles and aerosolized fluids.

Is there a reliable and objective method for rating the protection level of medical masks?

Yes, medical masks are tested at certified 3rd party labs using the ASTM Performance Rating method (ASTM F2100-11). Ratings range from Level 1 – lower fluid resistance to Level 3 – highest fluid resistance.

What is the ASTM rating for Shield masks?

Shield masks are rated at ASTM Level 3, the best protection short of N95 respirator masks. Level 3 masks are recommended for a wide range of procedures including those likely to generate aerosols and spray (in the absence of requirements for N95 level protection).

How does the Shield mask design maximize protection for the user?

In addition to the Level 3 filtration efficiency and fluid resistance, Shield masks are designed with Positive Facial Lock® and Twist Seal® to allow a custom fit around the nose, sides and chin. This reduces leakage and “blow-by” of particles and aerosols around the edges of the mask during procedures.

How does the Shield mask improve compliance with mask wearing?

The Shield High-Efficiency Face Mask combines comfort with customized fit, all without OSHA fit test requirements. This mask is constructed with soft hypoallergenic materials and no latex components. Magic Arch® lifts the mask material slightly away from nose and skin to slow down saturation and improve overall breathability.

How should I determine the right mask for the task?

Follow CDC guidance and OSHA mandates based on current risks for disease transmission. In general, use Level 1 and 2 masks for exams and other procedures not likely to produce aerosols or spray, or for patients and visitors. Use a Level 3 mask like Shield for procedures likely to generate aerosols when an N95 level mask is not required. Wearing a Shield mask with a solid face shield will increase aerosol protection.

How often should I change my mask?

Disposable masks should be changed when visibly soiled, wet and between patients. Procedures that produce high aerosols (use of high-speed handpieces and powered ultrasonic scaling devices) may require changing the mask several times during a procedure on a single patient.



What is the ASTM criteria for a Level 3 medical mask rating?

CHARACTERISTIC	LEVEL 3
Bacterial filtration efficiency, %	≥ 98
Sub-micron particulates filtration efficiency at 0.1 micron, %	≥ 98
Differential pressure, mm H ₂ O/cm ² (Breathability)	< 5.0
Resistance to penetration by synthetic blood, minimum pressure in mm Hg for pass result	160
Flame spread	Class 1
Helmke Drum	Category 2

How does the Shield™ Level 3 surgical mask compare to a medical grade N95 respirator?

The Shield High-Efficiency Face Mask is the best level of protection available in a disposable pleated face mask short of N95 medical respirators.

SHIELD HIGH-EFFICIENCY LEVEL 3 SURGICAL FACE MASK	N95 MEDICAL RESPIRATOR
Single use disposable.	Single use disposable.
Particle filtration at 98% or greater.	Particle filtration at 95% or greater.
High level of fluid resistance.	High level of fluid resistance.
Improved fit with less leakage at sides and edges when compared to other surgical mask designs.	When fit tested with user seal check, minimal leakage around edges.
No fit testing required.	OSHA mandated fit testing.
U.S. based manufacturer, reliable supply chain, lower cost per piece.	Uneven availability and higher cost per piece.