

# Dos & Don'ts *for wearing* P2/N95 Masks

## What they are and when to use them

**P2 or N95 MASK:** A mask which provides a tight facial seal with a face-seal leakage of < 10 % and ability to filter at least 95% of particles 1 micron in size .

### TYPES OF P2/N95 MASK



### WHEN TO USE:

- Whenever Airborne Precautions are indicated e.g. TB, measles or chickenpox.
- When in the operating theatre when laser or diathermy is used during a procedure.
- When in the same room as an induced sputum is being undertaken.

### DO

### DON'T

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| ✓ <b>DO</b> clean your hands before putting on and after removing mask.  | ✗ <b>DON'T</b> wear if wet or soiled.   |
| ✓ <b>DO</b> follow manufacturer's instructions for donning and doffing the mask.   | ✗ <b>DON'T</b> reuse a mask. Discard it immediately after use.                            |
| ✓ <b>DO</b> check that there are no defects such as holes or torn straps.  | ✗ <b>DON'T</b> wear a mask that you haven't been trained to use. Ask for instruction.     |
| ✓ <b>DO</b> make sure the mask is completely covering your nose and mouth  | ✗ <b>DON'T</b> use a mask if air leaks around the edges.                                  |
| ✓ <b>DO</b> mould the mask over the bridge of your nose and press around the face seal of the mask.  | ✗ <b>DON'T</b> use this mask if you have a beard 2mm or more in length, it will not seal. |
| ✓ <b>DO</b> ensure mask has a complete seal all round and perform a fit check.   | ✗ <b>DON'T</b> touch the front of your mask after it has been correctly fitted.           |
| ✓ <b>DO</b> tilt your head forward and remove the mask by bringing the bottom strap to the top strap, controlling the elastic, lift straps over your head and without touching the front of the mask remove the mask out, down and away. | ✗ <b>DON'T</b> snap the straps of the mask as this may cause contamination.               |
|  | ✗ <b>DON'T</b> leave a mask hanging around your neck as this can lead to cross infection. |
|  | ✗ <b>DON'T</b> give this type of mask to a patient unless medically directed e.g. chemo.  |

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Based on APIC Do's & Don'ts For wearing N95 respirators in non-surgical healthcare settings 2017