



May 28, 2020

OHA Guidance for KN95 Mask Use

According to OHA guidance, KN95 masks can serve as a barrier to aerosols with some filtration abilities that are better than surgical facemasks and homemade cloth masks. However, they likely make breathing more difficult.

- OHA recommends that people who have difficulty breathing with any mask not use it and to use a mask that allows them to breathe freely.
- Mask wearers should take frequent short breaks as needed.
- People with underlying conditions such as asthma, COPD, heart conditions, or other conditions that makes breathing difficult should use masks that make breathing easier.
- OHA does not anticipate carbon dioxide build-up or decreased oxygen saturation levels in blood simple due to a tight fitting mask.
- Oxygen saturation could be compromised if someone is having difficulty breathing due to a medical condition or physical exertion. For those individuals, a different kind of mask like a surgical mask or bandana may be recommended.
- KN95 and N95 masks function best when a fit test is conducted. In this setting, fit testing is not a priority because the users are not healthcare workers and the **purpose is to provide a barrier to droplet transmission.**