

Face Masks Are Your Friends!

Wear them with the respect they deserve...

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Course Objectives

- Review regulatory requirements for wearing face masks/respiratory protection
- Review types of face masks and their application to dental procedures
- Discuss characteristics of face masks and their importance in mask selection
- Troubleshoot issues with wearing face masks

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OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard

“Masks, Eye Protection, and Face Shields. Masks in combination with eye protection devices, such as goggles or glasses with solid side shields, or chin-length face shields, shall be worn whenever splashes, spray, spatter, or droplets of blood or other potentially infectious materials may be generated and eye, nose, or mouth contamination can be reasonably anticipated.”



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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

“Use of mouth, nose, and eye protection during procedures that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood or other body fluids. “



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American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)



- **International organization that sets product and testing standards**
- **Works closely with American National Standards Institute (ANSI)**
- **OSHA requires that PPE meets ANSI standards.**



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ASTM Low Barrier:

Exams, Operatory Cleaning and Maintenance, Impressions, Lab Trimming, Finishing, Polishing, Orthodontics

ASTM Moderate Barrier:

Restorative/Composites, Endodontics, Prophylaxis, Sealants, Scaling and Root Planing, Limited Oral Surgery

ASTM High Barrier:

Crown Preparation, Implant Placement, Use of Ultrasonic Scaler, Use of Piezo Scaler with Water, Periodontal Surgery, Complex Oral Surgery

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Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- Face masks are single-use, disposable items.
- “According to the Food and Drug Administration a single-use device, also referred to as a disposable device, is intended for use on one patient during a single procedure. It is not intended to be reprocessed (i.e., cleaned and disinfected or sterilized) and used on another patient. The labeling may not identify the device as single-use or disposable. If a device does not have reprocessing instructions, regardless of labeling, it should be considered single-use and disposed of appropriately (i.e., according to federal, state, and local regulations) after one use.” CDC



<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/faqs/single-use-devices.html>

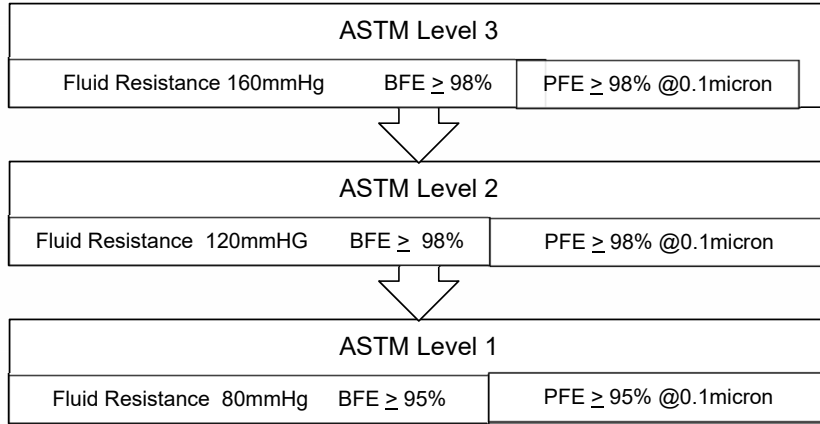
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Other Factors in Face Mask Selection

- Fluid resistance – The ability of a mask’s material to minimize fluids from traveling through the material and potentially coming in contact with the wearer. Measured in mmHG
- Bacterial filtration rate (BFE) - The measure of the efficiency of the mask in filtering bacteria passing through it.
- Particulate filtration rate (PFE) – The size of the particles filtered by the mask.

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ASTM Levels and Fluid Resistance, BFE, and PFE



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Inappropriate Use of Face Masks



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▾ Inappropriate Use of Face Masks



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▾ Key Objections to Face Masks

- Difficulty breathing
- Makes us hot
- Fogging of safety glasses
- Skin irritation
- Don't fit well



Photo Source: DentalTI

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► Making Better Choices with Face Masks

- Use correct ASTM level for procedure
 - But avoid too many choices
 - Increases possibility for errors
- Select a brand that has/is:
 - Good breathability
 - Anti-fogging nosepiece
 - Dye-free on inside surface
 - Made from soft, non-irritating (scratchy) material




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