

HOW GOOD IS YOUR MASK?

The Environmental Protection Agency and others have published research on masks and the percentage of COVID-size airborne particles they filter out. Two things matter most: the type of material and how well it fits your face. Surprisingly, medical procedure masks aren't especially protective unless they're modified to fit snugly across your face by twisting the loops around your ears or affixing them with clips or other devices. Here are the findings:

80 to 95%



N95 and KN95 masks

74%



Woven nylon mask with aluminum nose bridge and filter

72%



Surgical mask with ties

60%



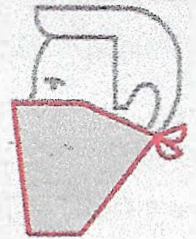
Medical procedure mask, loops twisted around ears, corners tucked

56%



Woven nylon mask with aluminum nose bridge, no filter

49%



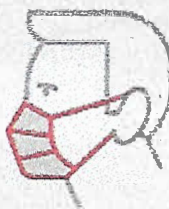
Cotton bandanna, bandit style

45%



Woven nylon mask, no bridge

39%



Medical procedure mask with ear loops

38%



Single-layer polyester gaiter