



## N95 Respirator Guidance

The Board of Regents has provided WCSU with a limited number of N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators for VOLUNTARY use upon request by the campus community. Please note that under Non-Public Health Emergency conditions, and per the Occupational Safety & Health Administration's Respiratory Protection Standard Requirements (OSHA 1910.134), these facepieces are typically provided to only those employees whose job functions may expose them to certain environmental contaminants for which the devices are designed to protect against. However, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, OSHA relaxed its requirements under this rule, thus allowing the University to make these respirators available on a voluntary basis and upon request.

**Please note that due to the limited number available, the N95 respirators are not available for one-time use.** Proper care and storage of these facepieces is essential and includes:

1. Keep out of contaminated areas, away from dust, direct sunlight and damaging chemicals;
2. Avoid storing at Temperatures of greater than 80 deg F;
3. Avoid storing at Relative Humidity levels of greater than 80%;
4. When not in use, should be stored by placing in a separate bag (preferably paper), or container (Tupperware bins with holes poked in the top of the container).

Additionally, the following limitations are associated with the use of N95 Respirators:

1. Effectiveness decreases significantly if the wearer is not clean-shaven. Beard, stubble, or long mustaches may cause leaks;
2. Children should NOT wear an N95 Respirator;
3. N95 respirators, by design restrict air intake. Anyone with respiratory or cardiac health issues should NOT wear an N95 Respirator.

Lastly, please be aware that per the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), N95 Respirators are not the only recommended form of respiratory protection against Covid-19. Multi-layered cloth masks with an adjustable nose piece and disposable multi-layered surgical masks are but two examples. This guidance is based upon information provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) and all other applicable regulatory agencies as of January 12, 2022.

Below are a few useful links which will provide additional information:

[Your Guide to Masks | CDC](#)

[1910.134 - Respiratory Protection. | Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(osha.gov\)](#)

Please email your requests via the WCSU Covid-19 Request Portal to [covid-requests@wcsu.edu](mailto:covid-requests@wcsu.edu).