

Interim Mask and Face Shield Guidelines

These recommendations align with existing CDC recommendations for patients without signs/symptoms of COVID-19.

Use the highest level of PPE available when treating patients to reduce the risk of exposure. Some risk is inherent in all scenarios. If masks with either goggles or face shields are not available, please understand there is a higher risk for infection; therefore, use your professional judgment related to treatment provided and the patient's risk factors.

Considering that patients who are asymptomatic may still be COVID-19 infectious, it should be assumed that all patients can transmit disease.

Mask Type – With Goggles or Face Shield (Understanding Mask Types)		Level of Risk*** to DHCP
	N95	Low
	N95 EQUIVALENT MASK* KN/KP95, PFF2, P2, DS/DL2, KOREAN SPECIAL 1ST	Low
	Surgical Mask**	Moderate

*The FDA has authorized the use of masks equivalent to the N95 during the pandemic period. Manufacturers approved can be found here: <https://www.fda.gov/media/136663/download>

**ASTM has established performance levels for surgical masks based on fluid resistance, bacterial filtration efficiency, particulate filtration efficiency, breathing resistance and flame spread.

- Level 1 masks have the least fluid resistance, bacterial filtration efficiency, particulate filtration efficiency, and breathing resistance.
- Level 2 masks provide a moderate barrier for fluid resistance, bacterial and particulate filtration efficiencies and breathing resistance.
- Level 3 masks provide the maximum level of fluid resistance recognized by ASTM and are designed for procedures with moderate or heavy amounts of blood, fluid spray or aerosol exposure.

***[ADA.org/InterimGuidanceOverview](https://ada.org/InterimGuidanceOverview)

Professional judgment should be exercised when considering the use of gowns, foot covers and head covers.

These guidelines are intended to help dental practices lower (but not eliminate) the risk of coronavirus transmission during the current pandemic. Dental practices should not presume that following the guidelines will insulate them from liability in the case of infection. Dentists should also be aware of any relevant laws, regulations, or rules adopted in their states.