



DEPARTMENT NOTICE

20-082

5/5/20

Updated Guidance for Mandatory Use of Respirators and Masks for Police Department Employees (Supersedes DN 20-66)

As we work towards flattening the curve and move towards a better tomorrow, we need to remain vigilant in our efforts to stay healthy not only for ourselves and our co-workers, but also for our families. I want to thank you again for your efforts and encourage you to follow officer safety practices while also adhering to the guidelines for reducing the threat of exposure.

Although the Department of Human resources (DHR) is recommending the use of simple barrier isolation masks during the entire shift for all Department members, in order to stay ahead of the curve, **a mask or respirator must now be worn at all times in the workplace and in the community as we engage with each other or while providing service to the community.**

Differentiation of PPE

N95 Respirators

If there is potential for an encounter with a possible/confirmed COVID-19 case OR a confirmed COVID-19 case, the N95 shall be used. The N95 is a respirator labeled "N95".

Surgical/Isolation Masks (including KN95 labeled masks)

Simple barrier isolation masks usually have no writing/designation on them. When a member is engaging with the community, the member should use their discretion to determine when appropriate to switch from the surgical/isolation mask to the N95 respirator. This switch should occur in a safe place, before engagement, and at least (6) feet away from a possible confirmed COVID-19 exposure. **Masks labeled "KN95" are simple barrier masks and do not offer the same level of protection as a respirator labeled "N95."**

As commercial PPE masks are in limited supply, members are encouraged and allowed to wear their own personal simple barrier style masks as long as they are either solid black or navy in color.

Disposal

All used PPE (N95 respirators, surgical masks, gloves, etc.) shall be disposed of in a regular trash receptacle in an effort to keep our members and the community safe and minimize exposure. Removal of all masks should occur with gloves on. Dispose of the N95 first, then gloves, into nearest trash can.

Field use

If the N95 is used in the field and there is NO contact with a confined case, the N95 can continue to be used as long as it remains dry, clean and undamaged. N95 masks can be worn continuously throughout a shift, with the exception of removal for eating, drinking, etc.

Similarly, the surgical/isolation mask can also be worn as long as it remains dry, clean and undamaged.

Please remember:

- These guidelines are for all members.
- A simple barrier isolation mask including “KN95” labeled masks do not provide the same level of protection as an N95 respirator.
- Employees are encouraged to keep their masks and respirators for as long as possible, as long as they are clean, dry, and undamaged.
- Please continue to follow the best preventative measures such as frequent hand washing and social distancing.
- **Members are encouraged and allowed to wear their own personal simple barrier style masks as long as they are either solid black or navy in color.**

Commanding Officers can obtain supplies through the DOC. Please see [Department Notice #20-048](#).

Thank you for your continued dedication to the City and County of San Francisco as we work together to keep everyone safe and healthy.



WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police

Per DB 19-156, both sworn and non-sworn members are required to electronically acknowledge receipt and review of this Department Notice in HRMS. Any questions regarding this policy should be made to sfpd.writtendirectives@sfgov.org who will provide additional guidance about the directive.