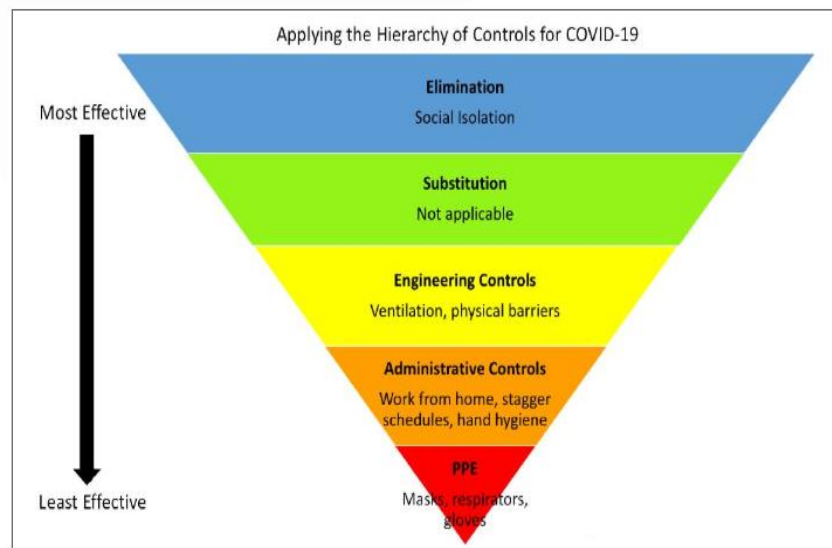


# COVID-19 LLE Project Group

## Respiratory Protective Equipment Selection for COVID-19 Control

### Introduction

This guidance sheet outlines the use of respiratory protective equipment (RPE) as a control measure to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission. RPE can minimise the spread of droplets from the nose and mouth. RPE must be selected and used in accordance with Australia/New Zealand Standard *AS/NZS 1715 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective devices* (1994).






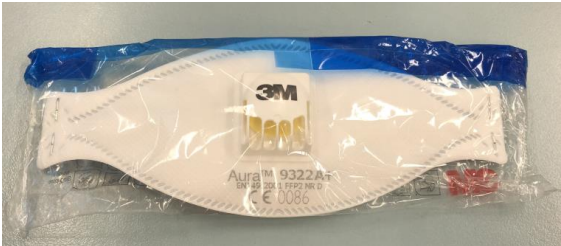
The hierarchy of controls should be referred to when developing measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission, starting from most effective controls.

Elimination controls by social distancing are the most effective.

Engineering and Administrative are also highly effective controls where elimination may not be reasonable for the task.

PPE is the least effective as it relies on proper and continuous use. When used improperly or with disregard to higher order controls, PPE such as RPE may increase the risk of transmission. Personnel provided with PPE must receive instruction on proper use to prevent contamination, i.e. sanitising hands before and after touching RPE.

### Selection Factors

Style	Picture	Benefits	Risks
Vertical flat fold		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Availability</li><li>• May be individually packaged</li><li>• A fit test to ensure proper fit and seal may offer some protection to the wearer</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Poor fit due to nose band being pre-bent</li><li>• Ear straps may be insecure during physical work</li><li>• Falsified certifications – ensure certification company of mask is verified</li></ul>
Moulded cup		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Availability</li><li>• Head straps more secure than ear straps</li><li>• May achieve better fit as the nose clip has not been pre-bent</li><li>• A fit test to ensure proper fit and seal may offer some protection to the wearer</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supplied as multiples in single plastic bag increasing risk of cross contamination</li><li>• Possibility of poor fit due to moulded shape</li></ul>
Surgical mask		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Designed to minimise transmission of droplets from nose and mouth of wearer</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not certified to AS 4381 or EN14683</li><li>• Not designed to protect the wearer</li></ul>
Any style with exhalation valve		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased wearer comfort</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does not filter exhaled breath</li><li>• Not suitable for COVID-19 control</li></ul>