

NIH Supply Center

NIH Supply Center – We’re Your Priority Source. YOU’RE Our #1 Priority!

Customer Service and Convenience - We Are Right Next Door!

As a follow on reminder to Dr. Johnson’s message to underscore the significance, we want to alert you to a very real threat that could affect our mission and our health - counterfeit N95 respirators.

Since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, masks and face coverings have become a normal and critical part of stopping the spread of COVID-19. OneNIH, a strategic buying initiative between institutes and centers across NIH and OALM, was launched in April, 2020 in response to the pandemic to provide personal protective equipment, including masks, to NIH employees.

OneNIH, through the Division of Logistics Services (DLS), and in partnership with the Division of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS), ensures safe, approved, quality products are available to NIH customers through the NIH Supply Center.

The issue of counterfeit and altered respirators procured outside of the NIH Supply Center is of utmost concern to DOHS and DLS. These products are being fraudulently marketed to consumers as NIOSH-approved N95 respirators. These counterfeit products have *not met* the rigorous standards required to ensure they are safe for use. Per the OSHA website, “**Counterfeit** respirators are products that are falsely marketed and sold as being NIOSH-certified and may not be capable of providing appropriate respiratory protection to workers. **Altered** respirators are non-approved modifications to a [NIOSH-certified \[approved\] respirator](#).”

How can you know the respirator or surgical mask you want is both safe and authentic?

OneNIH - We’ve got you covered. Rest assured that DLS and DOHS work diligently and rigorously to ensure that only [NIOSH-approved N95 respirators](#) are offered to the NIH Community through the NIH Supply Center. *Please note, N95 respirators are typically only used by healthcare workers, and those with unique job requirements that warrant an N95 for personal protection. Most NIH staff will either need to use and purchase surgical masks to wear for laboratory work or use cloth facial covering for non-scientific work.*

The NIH Supply Center also stocks multiple models and levels of [surgical masks and NIOSH-approved N95 respirators](#).

Visit: [NIH SUPPLY CENTER PRODUCTS](#) or contact your ONENIH Customer Service Representative now at: NIHSC-customerservice@od.nih.gov

Still need advice on which facial covering to buy for your situation?

Knowing how to choose and wear the appropriate facial covering is critical. Not everyone needs respiratory protection at this time. Please review the NIH Safety Guidance and contact your DOHS safety specialist for more information. DOHS can provide expert guidance on the proper selection, use, and care of facial coverings and respirators.

Call DOHS at 301-496-2960 or email: nihrespirator@mail.nih.gov

Together, we can be a stronger and safer community!

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