



S1.5.4 - The Methods of Face Mask Testing

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Covid-19 has reached everyone around the world in one way or another. We are constantly reminded that in order to slow and prevent the spread of Covid-19, the use of face masks and face coverings are essential. There are so many different masks out there. How do you know which one to choose? What is an N95 facemask exactly? What is a medical/surgical mask? What category does the bandana I am wearing around my face fall into? NIOSH's Non-Powered Air Purifying Particulate Respirators standard, ASTM's F2299 standard, and the brand new ASTM F3502 standard are a few of the test standards available today that measure the performance of face masks and face coverings. Each standard has specific guidelines that must be met to be certified as N95, N99, Level 1, 2, etc. This presentation will get into the specifics of the standards and compare and contrast their methods.

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