

ViraMask[®] N99ESC

The First CDC/NIOSH U.S. Government Certified Adhesion Face Mask

Since 911 and Katrina, there has been a growing awareness of the health hazards posed to Healthcare workers, first responders, EMT's, rescue squads, volunteers, EMS services, firefighters, government, military, mold remediators and public health medical emergency officials.

Wein/FaceSeal[™] Technologies has responded to this awareness and demand for greater personal protection by introducing the **ViraMask[®] N99ESC** CDC/NIOSH U.S. Government certified face mask with an N99 level of protection. This Face Mask is the only one of its kind to have received the special CDC/NIOSH US Government "**ESC**" designation for emergency use with its 99.95% filtering efficiency (which is 100 times greater protection than that afforded by the N95 rating). The **ViraMask[®]** can be applied in seconds providing an instant secure and comfortable face-seal even in the most challenging emergency situations.

FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION WHEN PURCHASING AN ESCAPE MASK*:

1. Face Masks should be CDC/NIOSH U.S. government certified and marked "**ESC**"
2. Face Masks that minimize breathing resistance are most desirable
3. Face Masks should have unobstructed fields of vision to reduce feelings of claustrophobia and enhance the overall comfort of the wearer. Better visibility allows wearers to feel more comfortable in their surroundings and to understand instructions more readily
4. Wearers must be able to communicate in an escape scenario, both to those providing instructions and those listening to instructions. Two-way communication is most important
5. Face Masks should be simple to operate. During stressful situations, users of escape masks should be able to easily don the mask without having to perform a series of complicated operations, such as having to adjust straps and metal strips along the nose
6. Correct fit and comfort are just as important as filtration

* This article appeared in the July 2006 issue of *Occupational Health & Safety*

The **ViraMask® N99ESC** employs a unique and revolutionary advanced design for respiratory protection, which maintains an integral face seal even during strenuous physical activity and perspiration. This advanced technology incorporates a circumferential medical-grade, latex free, hypoallergenic, adhesion face seal to virtually eliminate inward leakage between the Face Mask and the wearer's face.

ViraMask® is strapless, comfortable to wear, easy and intuitive to don. It also provides a one size fits all, universal fit for both adults and children. The highly efficient filtration media has a very low particle penetration and a low resistance to airflow, allowing for easy breathing and talking and eliminates the need for an exhalation valve which can leak internally or spread disease to those nearby.

CDC/NIOSH has recently announced that it is moving forward on plans to develop Total Inward Leakage (TIL) testing as part of respirator certification. In order to comply with new CDC/NIOSH standards for TIL, conventional face mask design will have to be modified to pass these standards for ongoing certification or they will be decertified. By contrast, the **ViraMask®** technology already meets and exceeds CDC/NIOSH's proposed TIL requirements, thus providing highly effective primary protection against airborne infectious and toxic agents.

- Markets include:
 - First Responders
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Military
 - Government
 - Evacuation
 - Pandemic Planning
 - Mold Remediation
 - Public Health Medical Emergencies
- Tested to reduce smoke and other toxic submicron particles including virus and bacteria, dust, pollens, fumes and molds by more than 99.95% with a superior one size fits all face seal.
- Validated research and test results were recently presented at the AIHCE (American Industrial Hygiene Association) and the ISRP (International Society of Respiratory Protection) and were shown to almost instantaneously fit more of the general population with a far superior overall fit factor mask-to-face seal than any other Face Mask tested. Users reported greater than 90% comfort and breathability compared to the conventional banded Face Masks.
- **ViraMask®** has been designed to be applied using easy to follow instructions quickly and intuitively.
- **ViraMask®** avoids claustrophobic-like facial pressures present with the much older conventional strap and headband technology that can add to discomfort, confusion and panic during an emergency.

The implications for public health emergency planning are that the **ViraMask® N99ESC**, with its advanced face seal, may be the best respiratory protection facemask currently available.

