



**Different mask types:**

	<p><b>Mouth and nose masks</b> (also known as surgical masks)</p> <p>These can prevent the wearer's saliva or breath droplets from spreading and serve primarily to protect the opposite party.</p>
	<p><b>FFP masks</b></p> <p>Filtering face piece (FFP) masks are used primarily in work areas where there are harmful substances in the air. The masks keep out harmful substances, including viruses. They are regarded as personal protective equipment as part of occupational health and safety. Masks without a valve filter both the inhaled air and the exhaled air and thus provide both the wearer and others.</p>

Source: BZgA (Federal Center for Health Education)

**Re-use of surgical masks and FFP masks:**

According to the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), surgical masks and FFP masks can generally be reused after drying. The following recommendations must be observed:

- Please note that the outer surface of the used mask is potentially infectious. When reapplying, avoid contaminating the nose, mouth, and eyes of the wearer.
- After the mask is removed, it should be allowed to air dry (not in closed containers!) and stored in such a way as to prevent contamination of the inside of the mask or transfer of any harmful substances to other surfaces.
- The masks shall be stored in a secure marked area not accessible to the public so that they can be re-used.
- It must be possible to clearly assign the mask to a single person (e.g., by marking the strap) so that it cannot be worn by others.
- Used masks should not be cleaned or treated with disinfectant because this could impair the functionality of the mask.
- When putting on the mask again, care must be taken in order to prevent any pathogens from spreading from the contaminated outer surface to the inner surface. Touching the inside of the filter fleece should be avoided.
- A carefully maintained mask can be worn for several days up to one week.

Source: RKI/Occupational Medical and Health Services of the University of Stuttgart