
COVID-19 GUIDANCE ON USE OF MASKS/FACE COVERINGS FOR NON-HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings, **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission, such as a workplace or foodservice location.

**When everyone wears simple cloth face coverings in public, it slows the spread of the virus!
People who are asymptomatic
are less likely to unknowingly transmit the virus to others.**

**WARNING: WEARING A MASK OR CLOTH FACE COVERING IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE
FOR THOROUGH HANDWASHING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, medical grade facemasks, such as N95 masks, are prioritized for healthcare workers and first responders. We discourage non-healthcare business from trying to obtain medical grade facemasks, but to wear a homemade or self-sourced face covering.

Guidelines for wearing masks/face covering:

1. Face covering should:
 - Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and cover nose and mouth
 - Be secured with ties or ear loops
 - Include multiple layers of fabric
 - Allow for breathing without restriction
 - Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change in shape.
2. Individuals should wash their hands immediately *BEFORE* removing their face covering **and again AFTER** removing their face covering! They should also be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth while removing a mask. when removing their face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

Suggestions for a safer work environment:

1. Encourage employees to wear cloth or 'procedure' face coverings at work.
2. CONTINUE frequent handwashing, cleaning/disinfecting of high touch surfaces, and social distancing. These are the most effective things we can do, based on confirmed scientific guidance, to prevent the spread of the virus.
3. Disposable surgical or procedure masks may be used if available and then disposed of properly. You should remove and replace face masks when they become moist. Depending on the availability of masks, consider issuing one mask per day for staff.
4. IF EMPLOYEES ARE SICK OR BELIEVE THEY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED, ASK THEM TO STAY HOME, notify their manager and contact a medical provider.

[CDC Resource:](#)
[Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)
(Includes simple instructions for making sewn and no sew face coverings)