



May 1, 2020

Campus Guidance on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises people wear cloth face coverings while in public spaces where it may be difficult to maintain six feet of social distance, such as in grocery stores and pharmacies. This is intended to help prevent people from spreading COVID-19 to others if they have the virus but are not displaying symptoms.

However, social distancing, good hygiene and self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms remain the most effective measures to reduce the spread of the virus in the workplace. Therefore, we will continue to place an emphasis on adherence to these practices. Non-clinical employees are not required to wear cloth face coverings unless your job conditions make it difficult to maintain proper social distancing. However, you may wear one if you prefer to do so.

Cloth face coverings differ from traditional respiratory protection devices like N-95 respirators and surgical masks. We will continue to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) such as surgical masks and N-95 respirators to employees who may face potential exposure to COVID-19 or other hazardous substances related to their work. **We reserve these types of PPE for this purpose and they will not be used in lieu of cloth face coverings.**

Cloth face coverings are not meant to replace more effective means of preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, including:

- Maintaining social distancing practices at work and in the community (maintaining a distance of 6 feet or more from others);
- Practicing good respiratory hygiene (covering coughs and sneezes) and frequent handwashing using soap;
- Monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough and shortness of breath or at least two of the following: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell
- Staying home and in isolation if you are experiencing symptoms

If you feel that you are unable to maintain appropriate social distancing while performing your job functions, please notify your supervisor. UW Occupational Health is available to help identify alternate means of control if social distancing is not possible. occmcd@uhs.wisc.edu or call 608-265-5610.

Finally, please note that using cloth face coverings does not make it acceptable for employees to come to work if they are having symptoms or have a documented exposure risk. Doing so increases the chances of spreading illness in the workplace.

University Health Services

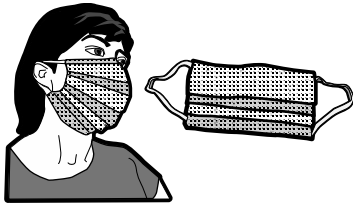
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Environment, Health & Safety

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WHAT TYPE OF MASK DO I NEED?

CLOTH OR DISPOSABLE



WHO SHOULD WEAR?

Employees working near others, general public, people with no symptoms

WHEN TO WEAR?

Working near others for short periods or going out in public, such as riding bus, getting groceries, etc.

USE GUIDANCE:

Don't touch mask
Handle by straps
Wash between uses
Store to avoid contaminating workplace
Not a substitute for social distancing

WHERE DO I GET THESE?

Check with supervisor about bringing masks from home
Instructions to make are on [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

SURGICAL/PROCEDURE



WHO SHOULD WEAR?

Healthcare workers, patients with symptoms presenting at health care

WHEN TO WEAR?

Working in health care settings, transporting patients, patient use upon arrival to health care facility

USE GUIDANCE:

Handle by ear loops or straps
Wash hands after taking off
Store to avoid contaminating workplace
Not for full day use

WHERE DO I GET THESE?

Work unit submits request through EOC Logistics at <https://shopuw.wisc.edu/eoc-ppe-request-form>

RESPIRATOR



WHO SHOULD WEAR?

Employees with hazardous substance exposure, employees working in close proximity to patients or materials with COVID-19

WHEN TO WEAR?

When exposed to hazardous material, in close proximity to infected patient or infectious materials, during aerosol generating procedures

USE GUIDANCE:

Must be fit tested and trained
Can be re-used in some conditions
Work unit must have written respirator program

WHERE DO I GET THESE?

Work unit submits request through EOC Logistics at <https://shopuw.wisc.edu/eoc-ppe-request-form>