

SAFE USE OF MASKS (FACE COVERINGS) FOR THE CONTAINMENT OF RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DO

General Use and Storage:

- Store masks in a personally marked, breathable and sealable bag when not in use
- Replace mask when:
 - o it becomes visibly soiled
 - o it has been used for a total of twelve (12) hours
 - o the bag in which it has been stored in has been compromised in any way
- Follow manufacturers specifications and instructions for your specific mask type

Donning:

- Ensure you have clean / sanitized **AND** bare hands when donning masks
- Ensure you pre-stretch both the top and bottom ties / elastic bands before placing the mask on your face
- Position the mask under your chin with the nose piece up, securing the ties / elastic bands around your head
- Use both hands to mold the metal band around the bridge of your nose

Doffing:

- After wearing a mask, you must assume it is contaminated
- Ensure you have clean / sanitized **AND** bare hands when doffing masks
- Bend forward slightly and carefully remove the mask from your face, touching only the ties / elastic bands
- If mask has ties, start with the bottom tie, then remove the top tie
- Place the mask into a personally marked, breathable and sealable bag and seal if still wearable. Do not set any masks on a commonly touched surface
- Place the mask into a plastic, sealable bag, seal and dispose of in waste bin if no longer wearable

DO NOT

- Touch face or mask in any manner with unwashed / unsanitized or gloved hands
- Use or handle another person's mask for any reason OR adjust a mask for another person
- Leave your mask out, without being sealed in a personally marked breathable, sealable bag



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SAFE USE OF MASKS (FACE COVERINGS)

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- KN95 masks are the only mask approved for essential close contact work. The use of KN-95 Masks during COVID-19 are intended to **contain** expelled droplets (due to a cough or sneeze) from the person wearing the mask. They are **not intended to protect** the wearer from potential inhalation of another person's expelled, potentially respirable droplets. As a result, fit-testing of these masks, for COVID-19 use only, is not required.
- Cloth face coverings should be worn only a short time, as there is some evidence that they can trap virus particles after they become damp, which may put the wearer at greater risk of being infected.
- Anyone wearing a face covering should avoid moving or adjusting the mask to prevent:
 - o contaminating the face covering with bare or gloved hands that have touched potentially infected surfaces, and
 - o contaminating hands with potentially trapped viruses in the face covering.
- For those choosing to wear face coverings, it may be prudent to carry a bag with several clean face coverings in it, as well as a separate bag that can be used to safely store used ones until they can be washed at home.