



Non-medical Masks and Face Coverings

Safety Precautions

Masking may lead to more hand-face contact. Washing hands or cleaning with alcohol-based hand sanitizer is critical to perform frequently and immediately after touching the mask.

Equipment

- Non-medical masks (Cloth masks, bandanas or other face coverings)
- Single-use masks

Breathability, comfort, and safety (e.g. adequate vision, communication) are key to compliance.

Medical masks must be kept for health care workers and others providing direct care to COVID-19 patients.

Frequency

- Where workers are not able to practice physical distancing or have frequent contact with the public, masking could be considered to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to others (also known as source control).

Training Required

- Reviewing this safe operating procedure
- Hands-on training and sign-off on Training Acknowledgement Form

Operational Procedure

Masks are to be changed if visibly soiled, damp, damaged or difficult to breathe through.

Non-medical Face Masks

For non-medical masks, no specific type or material is clearly better than another. Ensure the non-medical mask:

1. Allows for easy breathing.
2. Fits securely to the head with ties or ear loops.
3. Maintains their shape after washing and drying.
4. Is comfortable and does not require frequent adjustment.
5. Is made of at least 2 layers of tightly woven material fabric (such as cotton or linen).
6. Is large enough to completely and comfortably cover the nose and mouth without gaping.

Putting on a Single-use Mask

1. Before putting on a mask, perform hand hygiene with soap and water. If soap and water are not available use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Inspect the mask for tears or holes.
3. Find the top side of the mask where the metal piece or stiff edge is.
4. Ensure the coloured-side faces outwards.
5. Place the metal piece or stiff edge over your nose.
6. Cover your mouth, nose and chin.
7. Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides.
8. Do not remove the mask to talk to someone or let mask hang under chin.
9. Do things that would require touching the mask. If you do touch the mask, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.

Taking off a Single-use Mask

1. Remove the mask from behind your ears (do not touch the front of the mask).
2. Keep the mask away from you and surfaces while removing it.
3. Do not re-use single-use masks. Immediately dispose of a single-use mask in the proper garbage container.
4. Perform hand hygiene with soap and water. If soap and water are not available use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.