COVID-19

Cloth Masks in the Workplace

For those who are required to be on campus, the university supports the use of personal non-medical masks. Wearing a non-medical mask (for example a homemade cloth mask) in the community and/or when physical/social distancing cannot be applied may prevent an asymptomatic carrier of the disease from infecting others but has not been proven to protect the person wearing it. Strict hygiene and public health measures, including frequent hand washing and physical (social) distancing, refraining from going out if you are symptomatic and/or have been exposed to a confirmed case, will reduce your chance of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Do not use medical masks designed for health-care workers if you choose to wear a mask.

DONNING OR PUTTING ON A MASK

1. Wash your hands with soap and water or at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based disinfectant.
2. Remove the mask from the clean bag.
3. Check the mask for any rips or tears.
4. Make sure the mask exterior is facing out.
5. Place mask on your face, while holding on to the edges. Check the fit in a mirror if necessary.
6. Put one loop around ear, or tie the upper ties behind your head.
7. If the mask has a bendable nose piece pinch it around the bridge of your nose and tie the lower ties around your head.
8. Make sure the mask covers your nose and mouth so that the bottom edge is under your chin.
9. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based disinfectant.
DOFFING OR TAKING OFF A MASK

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based disinfectant.
2. Do not touch the part of the mask covering the nose and mouth, it may be contaminated.
3. Untie or remove the ear loops and remove the mask by the straps.
4. Put in a designated “dirty bag” like a zip-top plastic or cotton bag.
5. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based disinfectant.

Cleaning and Storage
If a mask becomes wet or soiled, immediately replace it with a clean one. Place the wet/soiled one in a designated “dirty bag” until it can be laundered or discarded. Masks should be laundered immediately after use, do not allow masks to sit un laundered at home or in the workplace. A “use” is a single shift at work or a trip to a public place e.g. grocery stores.

1. Remove masks from “dirty bag” and immediately put into washing machine.
2. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based disinfectant.
3. Use your regular laundry detergent and if desired bleach.
4. Wash and tumble dry on hot.
5. Remove from dryer and place into a designated “clean bag”.

Clothing and outerwear that is worn to work or outside the home should be hung to allow for air circulation around all surfaces overnight in an area of low traffic/occupancy e.g. garage.