



Protocol for WCRC Staff Wearing Masks to Prevent Spread of COVID-19 at Work*

Effective 4/8/2020 until further notice

Background

To decrease risk of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission of COVID-19, the CDC and Washtenaw County Health Department recommend that individuals wear a mask in any public setting where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

Reference: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html)

Protocol

All staff working at a WCRC jobsite or in a public setting, shall wear a mask or face covering when maintaining 6-feet of social distancing is not possible.

Cloth Masks

- In order to conserve medical masks for frontline healthcare workers, cloth masks or coverings are preferable to medical masks.
- WCRC is in the process of securing cloth masks and/or cloth coverings for staff for use at work (Please note that these items are difficult to procure and may not be immediately available for use).
- Staff will be responsible for laundering cloth face masks or coverings provided by WCRC. Masks/coverings should only be worn for one day and then laundered on the hottest wash setting. A previously worn cloth mask or covering should not be reworn without washing.
- Staff may use their own homemade masks if following CDC recommendations for DIY cloth face coverings: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html).

Medical Face Masks

- Until cloth face masks are secured, WCRC has a limited supply of medical face masks for staff.
- Masks will be distributed to employees who are determined to need them based on job assignment and ability to social distance.
- Masks will be provided by your supervisor. Staff should wash hands for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer immediately before taking a mask out of the box and putting it on.
- Replace the mask if visibly soiled or dirty.
- After a full day of continuously wearing a mask or 2-3 days of intermittent use, dispose of mask in garbage
- If you are going to reuse a medical mask that has been intermittently used, it should be stored in a designated storage area or kept in a clean, breathable container such as a paper bag between uses.
- WCRC will provide paper bags for this purpose. To minimize potential cross-contamination, storage bags should be clearly marked with the user's name and stored so that masks do not touch each other. Storage containers should be disposed of or cleaned regularly.

*This protocol is based on the protocol developed by the Washtenaw County Health Department for their staff.