



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

Effective 4/8/2020 until further notice

Updated 10/07/2020

Background

To decrease risk of asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission of COVID-19, the CDC recommends 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)

Effective Monday, October 5, 2020, per Washtenaw County Public Health Emergency Order "Required Facial Coverings":

Any individual who leaves their home or place of residence must wear a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth in the following instances:

- a. **When in any indoor public space;** this includes all students in grades kindergarten through twelve; and
- b. **When in any non-residential indoor space, such as workplaces, and not able to consistently maintain 6 feet of social distance;** and
- c. **When outdoors and unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household;** and
- d. When waiting for or riding on public transportation, while in a taxi or ride-sharing vehicle, school bus or when using a private car service as a means of hired transportation.
- e. Athletes training for, practicing for, or competing in an organized sport must wear a facial covering (except when swimming) or consistently maintain 6 feet of social distance (except for occasional and fleeting moments).

Protocol

Masks or face covering must be worn inside a WCRC facility whenever an employee leaves their assigned workspace (office, cubical, vehicle).

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.

All staff shall wear a mask or face covering when entering an "enclosed public space" during the workday. For example: a grocery store or gas station.



Cloth Masks

- In order to conserve medical masks for frontline healthcare workers, cloth masks or coverings are preferable to medical masks.
- WCRC has secured and distributed cloth masks and/or cloth coverings for staff for use at work.
- 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).
- As of October 2020, bandanas or handkerchiefs are discouraged per the CDC since they do not fit snugly to the face.
- The effectiveness of balaclavas (neck gaiters) are unknown at this time. If you choose to wear this as your face covering, it should be doubled up, per CDC guidance, to create two layers of fabric covering your mouth and nose.

For more on selecting, wearing and cleaning a face mask, visit:

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