

Revised 04/13/2020

Purpose: To give prevention guidance to Managers/Supervisors regarding safety measures that may minimize exposure

Reference:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/people-at-higher-risk.html>
3. This information is in addition to the *Regional Guidelines for Addressing COVID-19*, issued March 24, 2020
4. This information is in addition to the *Guidance for Minimum Cleaning Standards* issued on March 24, 2020

Overview:

Current (Center for Disease Control) CDC guidelines recommend wearing cloth face coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community setting* where social distancing is not always possible. This is a supplementary measure due to the nature of the spread of the disease as it is becoming better known and studied. These face coverings are designed solely to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Examples of these facial cloth coverings are shown in Figure 1 and are not considered personal protective equipment.



Figure 1: Examples of Cloth Face Coverings

The most effective disease prevention strategies in the workplace still include social distancing (i.e., limiting number of employees, >6 feet separation), staying home if you are sick, increased ventilation in close spaces (i.e., vehicles, break rooms), cleaning/sanitizing surfaces and vehicles, handwashing with



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soap and water and not touching the face. These control measures are designed to protect the worker from a known health hazard, such as COVID-19.

If, an employee wishes to wear a cloth face covering at work to prevent potential spread of the virus from them to their coworkers, TDOT will support this decision. It will be the employees' responsibility to properly wear, maintain, and clean the face coverings.

**A "community setting" is one with a bunch of people who don't know each other, like a grocery store.*

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

Why should I wear a cloth face covering? What good does it do?

In consideration of how COVID-19 spreads, the CDC recommends that people wear a cloth face covering to cover their nose and mouth in a community setting where people are not able to maintain a distance of 6 feet from each other because it will prevent respiratory droplets from being transmitted when a person coughs, sneezes, or even talks. This is to protect people around you if you may be infected but do not have symptoms.

Do I still need to stay at least 6 feet away from people if wearing a cloth face covering?

Yes. Wearing cloth face coverings is an additional public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The CDC still recommends that you stay at least 6 feet away from other people (social distancing) and that you continue to practice good hygiene (frequent hand cleaning, sanitizing work surfaces, etc.).

What are some examples of when I should wear a face covering while working at TDOT?

- When two or more people are required to ride in the same vehicle.
- When two or more mechanics are required to assist each other while working on the same part of a piece of equipment.
- When two people are required to lift an object too heavy for one person.

What if I'm only close to people for a portion of my workday. Do I need to wear the covering all day long?

No. You do not need to wear covering unless you must get closer than 6 feet to people.

What type of cloth face covering should be worn?

Cloth face coverings can be made common materials found at home, such as bandanas or other clothing/sewing material. Use tightly woven cotton, such as quilting fabric or cotton sheets. T-shirt fabric will work in a pinch. They can either be sewn together or simply folded and secured to your face by rubber bands or elastic hair bands. The mask should cover both your face and your nose at the same time.



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Who should not wear cloth face coverings?

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children younger than 2 years of age, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.

Do cloth face coverings need to be cleaned?

Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use. A washing machine using hot water during the wash cycle should suffice in properly washing a face covering.

What about disposable prefabricated masks. Will these work? Yes. Masks made with a synthetic woven material can serve a similar purpose as a cloth covering. However, most of these cannot be cleaned and must be disposed of after a certain period of use.

For additional information on how to make and properly use and care for cloth face coverings visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>