

From: [Hatch, Tom](#)
To: [Orange County](#)
Subject: Recommended Employee Face Coverings Guidance
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 4:35:06 PM
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ORANGE COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE #036

Date: 4-2-20 Time: 1108 hours

**COUNTY OF ORANGE TO FOLLOW CALIFORNIA STATE
GUIDELINES FOR WEARING FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC**

Recent guidance posted by the California Department of Public Health states Californians who must leave their homes to conduct essential activities should wear face coverings, if they feel comfortable doing so, and practice strict hand washing before and after touching and adjusting the covering.

Utilizing face coverings can help reduce infectious particles from those who could be infected, but are asymptomatic. It is not recommended for residents to use N-95 or surgical masks, which should be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.

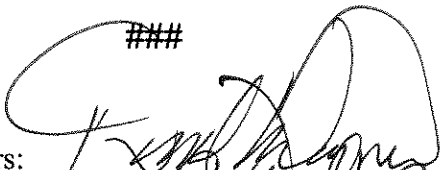

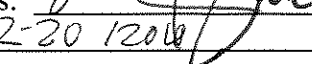
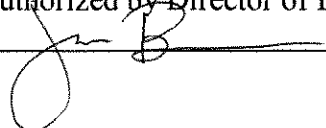
“Wearing a cloth face covering when leaving the house for essential activities may help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by residents who are positive but don’t have any symptoms,” said Dr. Nichole Quick, County Health Officer. “However, it’s important for community members to remember that face coverings are not a replacement for prevention measures like social distancing and frequent hand washing, which continue to be the best way to protect yourself.”

The best defense against COVID-19 is:

- Staying at home and physical distancing
- Washing hands frequently
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoiding being around sick people
- Staying home if you’re sick

The CDPH defines face coverings as material such as cotton, silk or linen that covers the mouth and nose. Coverings can be homemade or improvised from everyday items such as scarfs, bandanas, T-shirts, sweatshirts or towels. For more information visit www.cdph.ca.gov.

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Release authorized by Board of Supervisors: 
Release authorized by County Executive Officer: 
Release authorized by Director of Emergency Services: 
Sent by:  Date/Time: 4-2-20 1206

For questions related to COVID-19, contact the Orange County COVID-19 Hotline at 1(833)426-6411, visit <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus>, or follow the HCA on Facebook ([@ochealthinfo](#)) and Twitter ([@ochealth](#)).

Release authorized by Board of Supervisors: _____
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COVID-19 UPDATE





EMPLOYEE FACE COVERINGS GUIDANCE

Orange County Public Health Officials recommend that individuals follow the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)'s newly released guidance on the use of cloth face coverings during the COVID-19 emergency. Californians who must leave their homes to conduct essential activities may use cloth face coverings. This is not meant to be a substitute for strong defenses such as physical distancing or frequent handwashing. The primary role of cloth face coverings is to reduce the release of infectious particles into the air when someone speaks, coughs, or sneezes, or by individuals who may be asymptomatic. It could provide some additional benefit by acting as a reminder for other people to keep their distance. It is strongly recommended that individuals not purchase or use N95 masks or surgical masks reserved only for healthcare workers and emergency responders.

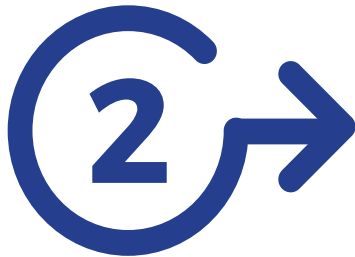
As such, the County of Orange **recommends** that employees follow the latest recommendations from CDPH and consider the use of cloth facial coverings when at work and/or conducting essential County activities. As the CDPH guidance states, we do not encourage the use or purchase of N95 masks or surgical masks as our County's healthcare workers and emergency responders are in critical need of such materials.

Besides employees who are required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when performing their County-related duties, all other employees are responsible for securing their own facial coverings and may use everyday items such as scarves, bandanas, neck gaiters, t-shirts, towels or home-made masks. These face coverings can be made from a variety of materials such as cotton, silk, or linen that covers the nose and mouth and can be secured with ties, straps, or simply wrapped around the lower face. Regardless of the material, the face covering should be changed and/or washed daily and should not include any inappropriate messages or print. Employees must practice strict hand washing before and after touching or adjusting the covering. Employees must be able to safely perform their regular duties while wearing the face covering.

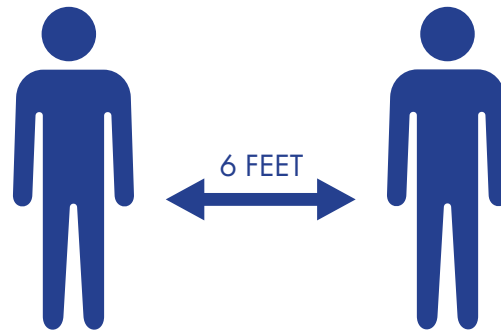
We want to emphasize that our best defenses against COVID-19 remain to be: washing our hands frequently; avoiding touching our eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands; avoiding being around sick people; and physical distancing, especially by staying at home. **The use of facial coverings is an additional precaution, and although recommended, it is not required.** Employees may contact their Human Resources Teams for any questions.



STAY HOME



SOCIAL DISTANCE



WASH HANDS & AVOID TOUCHING FACE



COVER YOUR FACE



BANDANA



NECK GAITER



HOMEMADE



DO NOT USE OR PURCHASE N95 OR SURGICAL MASKS. THESE SHOULD BE RESERVED ONLY FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS.

For more information, please visit: cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Face-Coverings-Guidance.aspx