

CLOTH MASKS FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

MITW COVID 19 Response Plan

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The CDC has now endorsed people wearing cloth face coverings in community and settings. This may slightly decrease risks of getting infected with Covid 19. More importantly, it will decrease people with Covid 19 infection, but don't know they have it, from spreading disease.

MITW Incident Command has previously sent out instructions on how to take care of the masks and take them on and off. Here are some links to patterns.

<https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/former-nurse-gives-tutorial-on-how-to-make-face-masks-at-home>

https://www.froedtert.com/sites/default/files/files/2020-03/MaskInstructions_V2.pdf

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

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https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DqImDf6_hsY

There is no perfect mask pattern. Wire around the nose for forming to your face and using a coffee filter or vacuum cleaner bag as a filter appear to be features of the most effective cloth covers (the CDC is hesitating to call them face masks).

It is very important to **NOT TOUCH YOUR MASK WITH YOUR FINGERS ONCE THE MASK IS ON.**

Please refer to Dr. Daun's instructions on mask care sent out separately.

Masks lose their effectiveness at filtering out virus after approximately six washings or if they are visibly falling apart after washing.

Below is a hand wash method which you could use as well:

Cleaning face masks:

To hand wash, fill a large bowl with really hot water. Add few squirts of Dawn, Ivory Liquid, or other NON-BACTERIAL dishwashing liquid. Add 1-2 tablespoons bleach. Mash the mask down and stir it up with a plastic spoon to get rid of the air bubbles. Let it soak until the water cools. Rinse. For extra safety, iron the pleats – but not the elastic – back into the mask (freshens it up and kills more germs!).