



# Care and Use of Face Coverings and Masks for COVID-19

In accordance with the NYS Governor's Executive Orders on face coverings, everyone on campus in direct contact with members of the campus community or the general public must wear a face covering and/or mask.

The Centers for Diseases Control (CDC) also recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies). The use of simple cloth face coverings will potentially slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus, and do not know it, from transmitting it to others.

**It is critical to emphasize that maintaining at least 6-foot social distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus.**

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders. In certain situations surgical masks or N-95 respirators may be given to essential personnel whose tasks may necessitate the use of a mask or respirator. (Note: training and fit testing is required for N-95 respirators).

	<h3>Cleaning and Inspecting the Face Covering or Mask</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Before putting on the Face Covering or Mask, <a href="#">wash your hands</a> for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.</li><li>• Check for defects in the Face Covering or Mask, such as tears or broken loops.</li></ul>
	<h3>Donning Your Type of Face Covering or Mask.</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Position the colored side of the Face Covering or Mask outward.</li><li>• Cover your mouth and nose with the mask and make sure to minimize gaps between your face and the mask.</li><li>• If the Face Covering or Mask has:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Ear loops:</b> Don the mask by placing the straps around your head (above and below your ears) or around your ears.</li><li>○ <b>Ties:</b> Hold the face mask by the upper strings. Tie the upper strings in a secure bow near the crown of your head. Tie the bottom strings securely in a bow near the nape of your neck.</li><li>○ <b>Dual elastic bands:</b> Pull the top band over your head and position it against the crown of your head. Pull the bottom band over your head and position it against the nape of your neck.</li></ul></li></ul>



### Donning Your Type of Face Covering or Mask (Cont.)

- If your Face Covering or Mask has one, mold the bendable metallic upper strip to the shape of your nose by pressing and molding (don't pinch) the metal strip with your pointer and middle fingers on each hand and at the same time.
- Pull the bottom of the Face Covering or Mask over your mouth and chin. Avoid touching your face with your hands.
- Be sure the Face Covering or Mask fits snugly.
- Don't touch the Face Covering or Mask once it is in position.



### Employee Sanitation after Face Covering or Mask Use

- Wash your hands with soap and water after removing your Face Covering or Mask. Be sure to also wash your hands afterward, or use hand sanitizer.

### Removal of the Face Covering or Mask

- Remove the Face Covering or Mask carefully, using the strap and avoid touching any part of the mask.
- If you have to touch the Face Covering or Mask while you're wearing it, wash your hands first.

### Storage of the Face Covering or Mask

- Place the mask in a paper bag or open zip-lock bag for reuse. This will allow the mask to dry. Once dry, store in a closed plastic bag to avoid contamination.
- If the Face Covering or Mask gets soiled or damp, replace it with a new one.
- Face Covering or Masks should routinely be washed and dried at a high temp; to help extend longevity of its use.
  - **\*\*Personal Protective Equipment is in critical demand\*\* Please conserve your PPE and ensure that you are maintaining it to the best of your ability.**

### Information Links:

#### Center for Disease Control and Prevention

[Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)

#### Stony Brook University

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/coronavirus/>

Date: April 16, 2020