

As you may have heard, on Friday afternoon, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new guidance on cloth face coverings. [Here](#) is what it says:

“We now know from [recent studies](#) that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially **in** areas of significant community-based transmission.”

The majority of our workforce is working or dispatching remotely. With a few exceptions due to the nature of your work (for example, hospitals, postal workers, correctional facilities), all State of Maine worksites should have effectively implemented social distancing measures and State employees should be adhering to those measures in and out of the workplace. The CDC makes it clear that maintaining 6-foot physical distancing and cleaning your hands often are critical to managing the spread of the virus: wearing a cloth face covering is not a substitute for this and other CDC hygiene guidance.

That said, CDC does recommend cloth face coverings as an additional, voluntary public health measure. We will support you in this voluntary effort. The State will procure a supply of such cloth face coverings as soon as possible. We’ll work through each Department on their distribution to each interested State employee. We want to help you in all ways possible to stay safe. In the meantime, the video in this [link](#) shows you how to make your own cloth face covering.

CDC does not recommend that you wear surgical masks or N-95 respirators unless you are a health care worker or other first responder. Our colleagues and neighbors on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic need them.

We thank all of you whose vigilance and hard work is both keeping COVID-19 from spreading and maintaining the services that Maine people rely on from State Government.

Kirsten LC Figueroa

Commissioner
Department of Administrative and Financial Services
(207) 624-7811
78 State House Station
111 Sewall St.
Augusta, ME 04333-0078

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:

This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

