New Government of Alberta public health requirements, and a heightened level of risk due to reopening worksites requires employees who work within 6 feet (2 metres) of each other, or the public to wear face masks when engineering and/or administrative controls are not practical. The following information will assist you in understanding the different types of masks, what they are used for, and how and when to use them. Employees, please familiarize yourself with this information and consider how it applies to the work you perform. Supervisors please ensure this is communicated within your teams.

### COVID-19 Mask Selection Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mask type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
<th>Examples of when to use</th>
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</table>
| Non-Medical Mask   | Acts as a barrier device only to catch pathogens (i.e. viruses, bacteria) shed in liquid droplets and aerosols from the wearer’s mouth and nose. These masks are subject to testing and design standards | - Non-medical masks will be issued to employees who require PPE for physical distancing controls  
- Requires accompanying hygiene, donning/doffing and disposal practices  
- Facial hair, in most cases will not interfere with use and these may be worn by persons having facial hair | Engineering or administrative controls aren't practical, the work task is deemed necessary (i.e. essential), and a worker must work within 6 feet (2 metres) of coworkers or the public                                                                                     |
| Face Shield        | A type of PPE that aims to protect the wearer's face (or part of it) from hazards such as flying objects, chemical splashes, or potentially infectious materials | - Face shields do not provide adequate protection from the periphery (sides) and the underside  
- Face shields cannot be used as an alternative to a non medical mask when physical distancing cannot be achieved | Related to COVID-19, face shields are typically used and reserved for treating COVID-19 patients in healthcare settings and are worn with additional PPE such as an N95 respirator                                                                                          |
| N95 Filtering Respirator | Protects the wearer from airborne particle hazards by filtering particles from the air. These respirators are intended to seal tightly to the wearer’s face and are subject to testing and design standards | - Requires fit testing and health screening before use  
- Requires accompanying hygiene, donning/doffing and disposal practices  
- N95 are being reserved for primary and allied healthcare services  
- Facial hair will interfere with respirator seal, and wearers must be clean shaven to wear N95 | N95 respirators should be used for particulate respiratory hazards such as dust                                                                                                                                     |
| Cloth Face Covering | Typically handmade, sewn or assembled from fabric and used to entrap and contain respiratory droplets and aerosols expelled from the wearer | - Risks, limitations and quality vary widely due to no testing or design standards  
- Cloth face coverings should not be worn in place of issued non medical face masks  
- Facial hair, in most cases will not interfere with use and these may be worn by persons having facial hair | This is a personal choice option that can be worn in situations where the hazard assessment doesn't require respiratory protection, but an individual chooses to wear a mask in conjunction with other COVID-19 controls such as hand washing and physical distancing. |
Resources available on OneCity and Edmonton.ca

Video

Face Covering FAQs

How to wear a non medical mask poster

COVID-19 INFORMATION

HOW TO WEAR A NON-MEDICAL MASK

Non-medical masks, including homemade cloth masks, can help prevent the spread COVID-19. They are another tool to use in places where it's difficult to keep two metres from other people for extended periods of time – such as public transit, grocery stores, pharmacies, hair salons, airlines and some retail shops.

Masks do not replace proper hygiene, physical distancing or isolation to prevent the spread.

SAFELY PUTTING ON A MASK

1. Wash/sanitize your hands.
2. Inspect the mask, holding it by the ties or loops. Discard if damaged or dirty.
3. Open fully to cover from the bridge of your nose to your chin.
4. Adjust the mask to your face so there are no gaps on the sides.
5. If mask has stiff edges, pinch to close gaps between nose and mask.
6. Keep your nose, mouth and chin covered at all times. Avoid touching the mask.

SAFELY TAKING OFF A MASK

1. Wash/sanitize your hands.
2. Remove it from the back by releasing ties or loops. Do not touch the front of the mask.
3. Discard the mask immediately if disposable. Wash thoroughly if reusable.
4. Wash/sanitize your hands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WEARING AND CARING FOR YOUR MASK

alberta.ca/masks
Close Proximity Work
Working within 6 feet (2 meters) of other workers, or the public

Close Proximity Work is Required

Is the work critical to the business or to safety?

No

Defer the work to a later date or until it becomes critical (contact your immediate supervisor to determine)

Yes

Can tools or equipment be used to allow fewer people to do the work?

Yes

Evaluate the impact of the tools/equipment on the work, people involved and the environment

No

Can physical guards or barriers be used? i.e. Flexiglass or poly

Yes

Evaluate the safe installation of barriers to separate people while working

No

Can tasks be spread across the area or over time so people can work on their own?

Yes

Create a staged work plan to complete the work

No

If no alternatives exist, provide appropriate PPE for the task

Note: the supervisor should be involved in planning the work, and when the work is deferred or stopped