

## Face Covering Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

In response to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Evanston has issued a [Face Covering Order](#) requiring all persons working in or patronizing “essential businesses and operations,” as defined in the [Governor’s Stay at Home Order](#), to wear cloth face coverings effective Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 8:00am. As these are unprecedented and challenging times, we want to provide you with as much information and clarity as possible – please see below for FAQs regarding face coverings:

### What is a face covering, anyway?

It is any type of cloth that covers your nose and mouth, including non-medical grade masks, homemade masks, scarves, bandanas, or handkerchiefs – see below for examples:

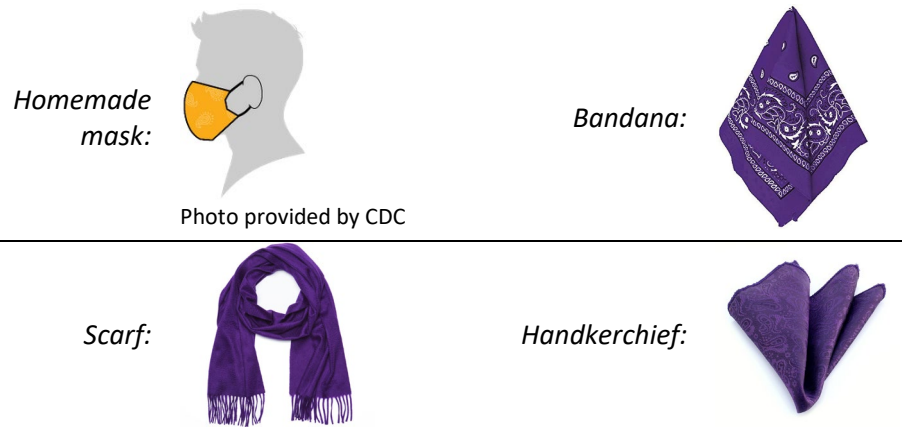


Photo provided by CDC

### What respiratory protection is reserved for our health care workers, medical providers, and emergency responders?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) recommend reserving medical grade masks and N-95 respirators for these individuals – see below for examples:



### How do I wear a face covering correctly?

The World Health Organization (WHO) provides face covering guidance on how to wear (including do’s and don’ts), when to use, and how to put on, use, take off, and dispose.

## **Will the University provide me a face covering?**

All essential employees will be provided an adequate supply of face coverings. Please reference the University's [Protecting Essential Employees](#) for additional information.

## **Can I make my own face covering?**

Yes, CDC provides guidance for [making your own face coverings](#).

## **How do I care for my cloth face covering?**

It's a good idea to wash your face covering at least daily. Place them in a bag or bin away from small children or pets until they can be laundered with detergent and dried on a hot cycle. If you need to remove and reuse your face covering before washing, consider putting it in a plastic or paper bag (not your backpack or purse) and be mindful not to put it where others can touch it or where it will contaminate other shared surfaces. Wash your hands immediately after putting it back on and avoid touching your face. Paper-based masks, like those crafted from shop towels, should be discarded after each use.

## **Does this Order mean I have to wear a face covering when I go to the store or get takeout from a restaurant? Will public-facing employees also be required to wear face coverings?**

Yes and yes.

## **Do I have to wear a face covering when I'm engaged in a permissible outdoor physical activity, as defined in the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order, such as walking, running, or biking?**

As long as you are practicing strict social distancing (6+ feet apart) with people outside your household, you do not need to wear a face covering while engaging in a permissible outdoor physical activity.

## **What if wearing a face covering poses a health, safety, and/or security issue to me that is greater than the benefits at large to the community?**

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance. Please get a note from your medical provider if your medical condition requires you to not wear a face covering.