Keeping a physical distance (at least 6 feet) from other people is our best protection against COVID-19; however, wearing a facemask can help protect others by containing the respiratory droplets of the mask wearer.

**CLOTH FACE COVERINGS**

Wear a cloth face covering:

- When working in areas, indoors or outdoors, where other people are present.
- In public spaces where keeping 6 feet of physical distance between you and other people is not possible, such as on public transit.

Cloth face coverings do **not** replace job-specific requirements for use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

**SURGICAL/MEDICAL MASKS**

Wear a surgical/medical mask:

- When performing work to support critical operations and
  - Maintaining a **6-foot distance at all times is not possible**; and
  - A **risk assessment** indicates a **surgical/medical mask is required** PPE for the work activity.
- When working in areas **where other people are present** and there may be **exposure to hazardous materials** (e.g., a biosafety level 2 lab, using hazardous chemicals).
- When your job includes working in environments where surgical masks are part of your usual PPE. Follow your department's instructions and training on PPE use.

**MORE INFORMATION**

- [University Guidance on Facemask Use for Preventing the Spread of COVID-19](https://www.ehs.washington.edu)
- [EH&S's Workplace COVID-19 Risk Level and Selection of PPE guidance](https://www.ehs.washington.edu)
- Governor Inslee’s “Safe Start” requirements
- Public Health — Seattle & King County's [guidance on mask use](https://www.ehs.washington.edu)
- Follow the [Important Safety Tips for Wearing Face Masks](https://www.ehs.washington.edu) (next page).
Important Safety Tips for Wearing Face Masks

- Clean hands before & after touching MASK
- MASK should always cover nose and chin
- MASK should not hang on one ear, hang around neck or be pushed to forehead
- Wear inside facing you and metal piece pressed onto nose bridge
- Discard if MASK becomes wet or soiled
- Avoid Touching MASK
- Store MASK safely if planned for re-use during shift
- Remove & store MASK before eating and drinking
- Clean & Dry
- Discard MASK when leaving building
- Store MASK safely if reusing

Contact EH&S at ehsdept@uw.edu or 206.543.7262 with questions.