

**From:** Governor John Carney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020 5:51 PM  
**To:** State Employees  
**Subject:** Cloth Face Coverings – DPH Guidance



## Delaware Governor John Carney

State employees-

You may have seen the [guidance issued today by the Division of Public Health \(DPH\)](#) regarding the voluntary use of cloth face coverings. The recommendation to wear cloth face coverings is intended to protect people you may come into contact with if you're unable to maintain social distancing. **It's important to note that the primary purpose of wearing the face covering is not to protect yourself – it's to protect others.** Please remember that wearing the face covering does not replace social distancing. We must continue to maintain a six-foot distance from others wherever possible.

To be clear, you are not required to wear a cloth face covering. However, if you want to wear a one at work because you regularly come into close contact with others, here are some things to keep in mind:

1. You can make your face covering from home out of cloth or a t-shirt, or use a scarf.
  - [Video Tutorial](#) - U.S. Surgeon General's video about how to make a homemade face covering
  - [How to wear and make face coverings](#) - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
2. You don't need to wear a medical grade mask. In fact, you shouldn't, because if you're wearing one, that's one less mask our health care workers have access to. Health care workers need to wear a certain type of mask to protect *themselves*. The general public (like state employees) are recommended to wear face covering to protect *others*.
3. You will still be expected to maintain a professional appearance and to maintain operational safety. For instance, you may not wear a face covering that covers more than the area around your mouth and nose (i.e. no ski masks or motorcycle masks). You may not wear face coverings with inappropriate writing or graphics on them.
4. Management reserves the right to ask employees to remove their face covering if the it is deemed inappropriate, unprofessional or unsafe

Please remember, if you have any symptoms, even if they are mild, stay home.

Sincerely,

John Carney  
Governor

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