

Slowing the spread of COVID-19 - Using Face Coverings to Protect Others

In accordance with new guidance and recommendations from the CDC and the LA County Department of Public Health, and the Pasadena Public Health Department, Caltech requires the following regarding face coverings for all members of the campus community while present on the campus.

- Use face covering to reduce the risk of shedding droplets from your mouth and nose.
- The face covering is NOT directly designed to protect you from inhaling harmful viruses but prevents you from shedding droplets from your mouth/nose into the surrounding environments.
- **Use the face covering anytime you are inside a building at Caltech or in close proximity to others.**
 - Face covering may be removed for the purpose of recording, filming or online meeting, if others are more than 6 feet away and all surface/equipment must be sanitized after use.
- Continue to practice physical distancing of at least 6 feet even with the face covering on.
- Wash your hands frequently, and do not touch your mouth, nose, eyes or ears without first washing your hands.

Caltech will be providing two (2) reusable cloth face coverings as an initial outfitting to each person working on the campus. Caltech employees are expected to use these cloth face coverings or a face covering of their preference, while on campus. Employees can work with their supervisors to possibly get additional cloth face coverings and are also encouraged to procure their own for choosing specific shape, fabric, etc. and maximum comfort. A link below provides instruction on DIY masks.

Disposable single-use face coverings (face masks) will only be available for visitors or if a person forgets their face covering on the way to work.

Putting on the face covering:

- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to handling the face covering.
- Ensure the face covering fits snugly over the nose and under the chin.
- Tie straps behind the head and neck or loop around the ears.
- Throughout the process: Avoid touching the front of the face covering and your mouth, nose or eyes.

Taking off the face covering:

- Wash your hands before taking off the face covering.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when removing the face covering.
- When taking off the face covering, loop your finger into the strap and pull the strap away from the ear, or untie the straps.
- Wash hands immediately after removing.

Care, storage and laundering:

- Keep face coverings stored in a paper bag or zip-lock bag when not in use.
- Cloth face coverings may not be used more than one day at a time and must be washed after use.
- Cloth face coverings should be properly laundered with regular clothing detergent before first use, and after each shift.
- Cloth face coverings should be replaced immediately if soiled, damaged (e.g. ripped, punctured) or visibly contaminated.
- Disposable face coverings must not be used for more than one day and should be placed in the trash after your shift or if it is soiled, damaged (e.g., stretched ear loops, torn or punctured material) or visibly contaminated.

LA County Public Health's "Guidance for Cloth Face Coverings"

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/GuidanceClothFaceCoverings.pdf>

CDC's "Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19" <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

DYI Home made cloth face coverings

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>