

Date: April 17, 2020

To: Webinar Participants – April 13, 2020
Covid 19 & Social Services. Addressing Real World Problems in Every Day Practice. Training Participants.

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Subject: Questions Generated from April 13, 2020 Webinar

I. Face Masks – Additional Questions & Comments:

- A. Are homemade masks ok? Are no sew masks ok?
The availability of N95 masks is limited at this writing. On April 4, 2020, the CDC “is advising the use of non-medical faced covering as an additional voluntary public health measure”. The Surgeon General add “that recommended masks are not surgical masks or N95 respirators...as those are critical supplies that must be continued to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders.” Homemade masks and non-respirator masks are what are available. See the links below for further information.
- B. Can masks be reused? It is best to wash masks that are washable after each use. See CDC link below
- C. What is the significance of the order of putting on two straps. - See CDC link below
- D. Should I wear a mask in the office? Each County is different. Each county should be consulted. Local Public Health can provide guidance.
- E. How do you clean homemade and purchased masks? Follow the directions on packaging for cleaning masks. Homemade masks, should be cleaned with hot soapy water. Stop usage if mask becomes worn, not functional.
- F. N-95 Mask logging in the use of an N-95 mask after use? Remember, this is new uncharted territory and the current CDC guidance is for health care providers. See link below for details. If using a N95 mask for a face to face contact with a non-suspected or confirmed client, then using a paper bag for logging your use is reasonable. However, you would need to dispose of if the client was infected or suspected by your local health department. Please work with your local health department.

- G. How long should an N95 mask remain in a paper bag? Per CDC link below, we have no specific guidance. If you are using a N95 mask, the bag is just a holding receptacle until your next use-whenver that is. The main issue is not to touch the inside and use gloves when putting back on and of course good hand washing.
- H. Can you store masks in Tupperware? Not recommended. Need breathable receptacle.
- I. Can you spray masks with Lysol. This is not recommended. Wetting of the mask along with vapors create two issues. In addition, the Lysol can cause skin irritation. Currently there is no guidance from CDC to do this.
- J. Do you need to use a dryer for face masks? CDC only cites use of a washing machine; so drying without a dryer is reasonable if one want to prevent shrinkage.
- K. Is there information on Fake N95 Masks? See CDC information below.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2762694>

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

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/usernotices/counterfeitResp.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-133/pdfs/2010-133.pdf>

II. Can the virus pass through your eyes?

At this writing no recommendations for the general public have been posted regarding eye protection. This article was found on the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/coronavirus-covid19-eye-infection-pinkeye>