

June 5, 2020

CATEGORY: News Release

RELEASE DATE: For Immediate Release

REGARDING: Cloth Face Coverings

On May 29, 2020, the Governor announced, through Proclamation 20-25.4, the transition from “Stay Home-Stay Healthy” to “Safe Start-Stay Healthy” reopening plan. Along with establishing a county-by-county phased approach to reopening, the proclamation elevated requirements for cloth face coverings within the workplace.

Along with social distancing and good hygiene practices, face coverings and masks are important tools in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Wearing them lessens the risk of spreading the virus from one person to another. The virus can spread into the air when an infected person breathes, talks, coughs, or sneezes. Many people who are infected don’t have noticeable symptoms and can inadvertently spread the virus to others

Beginning June 8 2020, all employees will be required to wear a cloth facial covering, except when working alone in an office, vehicle, or at a job site, or by any individual who is deaf or hard of hearing – or who is communicating with someone – who relies on language cues such as facial markers and expression and mouth movements as a part of communication, or when the job has no in-person interaction.

Employers must provide cloth facial coverings to employees unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under the Department of Labor and Industries safety and health rules and guidance. Questions about this requirement and implementation should be directed to Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

If you can sew and would like to donate cloth face coverings for our local businesses, you may drop them off at any Northeast Tri County Health District office or reach out to our local businesses directly.

Stevens County - 240 E. Dominion, Colville, WA 99114

Administration Phone: 509-684-2262, Fax: 509-684-1002

Community Health Phone: 509-684-2262, Fax: 509-684-9878

Environmental Health Phone: 509-684-2262, Fax: 509-684-8506

Ferry County - 147 N. Clark, PO Box 584, Republic, WA 99166

Phone: 509-775-3111, Fax: 509-775-2858

Pend Oreille County - 605 Highway 20, Newport, WA 99156

Phone: 509-447-3131, Fax: 509-447-5644

Helpful Information and Guidance:

- Proclamation by the Governor – 20-25.4
<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/20-25.4%20-%20COVID-19%20Safe%20Start.pdf>
- Washington Coronavirus Hazard Considerations for Face Coverings, Masks, and Respirator Choices
<https://www.lni.wa.gov/agency/docs/wacoronavirushazardconsiderationsemployers.pdf>
- Which Mask for Which Task
<https://www.lni.wa.gov/forms-publications/F414-168-000.pdf>

Additional Resources

Call a Washington State Labor and Industries consultant near you at 1-800-547-8367 or email DOSHConsultation@Lni.wa.gov for free, confidential help. www.Lni.wa.gov/DOSHConsultation .

The DOSH coronavirus website (www.Lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-topics/topics/coronavirus) includes resources from the CDC and OSHA.

Washington State Department of Health: www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus

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