



## **Use of Face Coverings as a Precautionary Control Measure**

**CTDOT COVID19 Safety Directives** – COVID Safety Directives issued by the CTDOT Division of Occupational Health and Safety may be revised, as needed, in response to updated or emerging requirements and guidance. Specific requirements or steps in any CTDOT COVID Safety Directive may be adapted to meet the specific needs of a COVID case, with the approval of the CTDOT Division of Occupational Health and Safety.

**Updated 8/3/2021** - All protocols identified in the CTDOT COVID Safety Directives are required regardless of the employee's vaccination status.

### **Face Coverings**

A Face Covering is defined as anything that is intended to and used for, the simultaneously covering of the nose and mouth to prevent the spread of potentially contagious viruses that are transmitted through the respiratory system. An example of this is the COVID virus. Face coverings include but are not limited to manufactured or homemade cloth masks, surgical masks, or other similar items. When required, the Department will supply employees and visitors such face coverings as are available and appropriate.

### **Required Use of Face Coverings**

The CTDOT Division of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) may require the use of face coverings as a precautionary measure to help control the spread of contagions as necessary or as recommended/required by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH).

- Precautionary masking protocols may be activated at any time within the CTDOT workplace.
- The most common reason for the activation of precautionary masking protocols is in response to a potential public health emergency identified by the CTDPH however, there may be unique situations that precautionary masking protocols will be activated to assist in the control of the spread of an airborne viral contagion on a local level.
- The required use of face coverings may be applied Department wide, to a geographical region, to a specific facility or to a specific unit/working group within a facility.
- The specific provisions of an activated precautionary masking protocol will be issued separately or reflected in, SD-COVID-Current Precautionary Control Measures.

### **Face Coverings Types, Use and Longevity**

There are many types of face coverings available. The type of face covering required will be based on the specific circumstances at the time of the face masking protocol activation and may change in response to changing conditions.

**Level 1** – Single Layer, Gaiter or Cloth Face Covering – Single layer face coverings provide limited control effectiveness but may be appropriate for some applications when the potential for viral spread is limited.

Durability – Washable, reusable, long life expectancy

**Level 2** – Multi-Layer Cloth Face Coverings – These types of face coverings have become very common and usually have either 2 or 3 distinct layers. They can be secured behind the head or over the ear and have been proven to be an effective control measure in most situations.

Durability – Washable, reusable, long life expectancy

**Level 3** – Multi-Layer Paper or Composite Medical/Surgical Face Coverings – Face coverings of this type are usually applicable to medical or health care environments and may be used in other environments where a higher level of control is required.

Durability – Disposable, limited reuse ability, life expectancy in the office/administrative environment may be as long as 2-3 days however, daily replacement should be expected depending upon use. Replacement required if it gets dirty or wet. Life expectancy in the field environment is very limited and may need to be replaced more often.

**Level 4** – KN95 - Durable Multi-Layer Paper or Fiber Face Covering – The KN95 is the highest level of face covering before moving to a respirator which requires entry into the CTDOT Respiratory Protection Program and medical clearance. The KN95 mask is used when the potential for viral spread is high especially in congregate work settings when physical distancing is difficult.

Durability – Disposable, reusable, life expectancy in the field may be as long as 7 days, replacement required if it gets dirty or wet.

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#### **EAP Lexington Group**

In these stressful times it is important that employees are reminded that the Lexington Group, EAP Program, is available and offers a variety of benefits and services to assist employees and their dependents in their time of need and/or their dependents is struggling to adjust to changes associated with COVID-19. Their number is 1-800-676-HELP (4357).

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**CTDOT Specific Information** - <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/StaffCOVID/Info>

State of Connecticut Information - <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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#### **For more information about the COVID19 virus go to:**

CTDOT Specific Information - <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/StaffCOVID/Info>

State of Connecticut Information - <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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You may contact any of the OHS Division staff with questions or concerns at any time. Email a confidential safety concern, observation or near miss by going to: [www.ct.gov/dot/safetyconcern](http://www.ct.gov/dot/safetyconcern)