



Putnam County Parks and Recreation (Participants) Waiver and Release of Liability

Read thoroughly this document and all attachments before signing

In consideration of being allowed to participate in athletic sports program using Putnam County facilities, related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that:

1. The risks of injury and illness (ex: communicable diseases such as MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19) from the activities involved in this program are significant, potentially life-threatening, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce these risks, the risks of serious injury and illness do exist; and,
2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the league administrator immediately; and,
4. I acknowledge that I am aware that there are risks to me of exposure to directly or indirectly arising out of, contributed to, by, or resulting from: ☐ An outbreak of any and all communicable disease, including but not limited to, the virus "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)", which is responsible for Coronavirus Disease (COVID19) and/or any mutation or variation thereof; and,
5. I acknowledge that I have read completely and agree to follow the CDC guidelines attached to this document and listed below as :

Document 1: Putnam County Parks and Recreation Re-Opening Plan

Document 2: How Covid- 19 Spreads,

Document 3: People Who Are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness,

Document 4: How to Protect Yourself & Others,

Document 5: Social Distancing,

Document 6: Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19.

I acknowledge and understand that the circumstances regarding COVID-19 are changing from day to day and that, accordingly, the CDC guidelines are regularly modified and updated and I accept full responsibility for familiarizing myself with the most recent updates.

6. In consideration of having the opportunity to participate as either a team member or competitor at location, and in acknowledging that I am aware of and willing to assume the risks associated with this activity, I hereby voluntarily agree to waive, hold harmless and indemnify Putnam County Parks and Recreation and, its trustees, agents, volunteers and employees from any and all claims, demands, damages and causes of action of any nature whatsoever arising out of ordinary negligence which I, my heirs, my assigns or successors may have against them for, on account of, or by reason of my participation in the above activities. I indicate my agreement to this hold harmless elective noted below.

7. I expressly agree that this Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement and the provisions contained herein are intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by laws of the State of Tennessee and that this Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee. I agree that in the event that any clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of this Waiver and Release which shall continue to be enforceable.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

Participant Name: _____

Participant Signature: _____

DATE SIGNED: _____

FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE (UNDER AGE 18 AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION)

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, have read and explained the provisions in this waiver/release to my child/ward including the risks of the activity and his/her responsibilities for adhering to the rules and regulations. Furthermore, my child/ward understands and accepts these risks and responsibilities. I for myself, my spouse, and child/ward do consent and agree to his/her release provided above for all the Releasees and myself, my spouse, and child/ward do release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's/ward's involvement or participation in these activities as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

DATE SIGNED: _____

Emergency Phone Number: (____) _____



Document 1:

Putnam County Parks and Recreation Re-Opening Plan



Putnam County Parks and Recreation Re-Opening Plan

- All athletes/legal guardians, coaches, volunteers, and league administrators/Board Members must thoroughly review all of the CDC guidelines and release forms provided by Putnam County to them and sign and return these release forms to Putnam County prior to returning to practices using Putnam County facilities.
- League administrators must provide complete rosters of all participants, volunteers, coaches, and board members to Putnam County to verify that everyone has signed the proper release forms and is aware of the assumption of risk.
- Once Putnam County has received all of the applicable forms, Parks and Recreation will give the go ahead for the league to begin practices.

Phase 1

Starting date will be when all forms are received by Putnam County

Athletic fields will re-open to organized league practices with all social distancing practices still in place.

- Only one team per field is permitted during this phase and practices should be limited to types that limit immediate or close contact.
- Frequent cleaning of commonly touched items/equipment should be enforced
- Efforts should be made to reduce the number of commonly used/touched equipment
- Masks should be worn by anyone not actively participating in practices i.e. volunteers, spectators, and coaches not in the field of play.
- Practices should be scheduled in a manner that allows a minimum of 30 mins transition time to prevent congregating after and before practices
- Anyone whom is sick or becomes sick should refrain from participating as well as anyone else from the same household

Phase 2

Starting date will be June 29th,2020

Leagues are permitted to return to inter-league game play as long as games. Social distancing practices are still to be observed.

- Frequent cleaning of commonly touched items/equipment should be enforced
- Efforts should be made to reduce the number of commonly used/touched equipment

- Practices and games should be scheduled in a manner that allows a minimum of 30 mins transition time to prevent congregating after and before practices
- Masks should be worn by anyone not actively participating in practices i.e. volunteers, spectators, and coaches not in the field of play.
- Anyone whom is sick or becomes sick should refrain from participating as well as anyone else from the same household

Phase 3

Starting date will be June 29th, 2020.

Out of town teams will be permitted to host games, matches, and tournaments using Putnam County Facilities. Social Distancing guidelines will still be observed.

- Frequent cleaning of commonly touched items/equipment should be enforced
- Efforts should be made to reduce the number of commonly used/touched equipment
- Masks should be worn by anyone not actively participating in practices i.e. volunteers, spectators, and coaches not in the field of play.
- Practices should be scheduled in a manner that allows a minimum of 30 mins transition time to prevent congregating after and before practices
- Anyone whom is sick or becomes sick should refrain from participating as well as anyone else from the same household



Document 2:
How COVID-19 Spreads

How COVID-19 Spreads

COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. We are still learning about how the virus spreads and the severity of illness it causes.

Person-to-person spread

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

The virus spreads easily between people

How easily a virus spreads from person-to-person can vary. Some viruses are highly contagious, like measles, while other viruses do not spread as easily. Another factor is whether the spread is sustained, which means it goes from person-to-person without stopping.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading very easily and sustainably between people. Information from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic suggest that this virus is spreading more efficiently than influenza, but not as efficiently as measles, which is highly contagious.

The virus may be spread in other ways

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by **touching a surface or object that has the virus on it** and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads, but we are still learning more about how this virus spreads.

Spread between animals and people

- At this time, the risk of COVID-19 spreading **from animals to people** is considered to be low. Learn about [COVID-19 and pets and other animals](#).
- It appears that the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread **from people to animals** in some situations. CDC is aware of a small number of pets worldwide, including cats and dogs, reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, mostly after close contact with people with COVID-19. Learn what you should do [if you have pets](#).

Protect yourself and others

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. You can take steps to slow the spread.

- [Maintain good social distance](#) (about 6 feet). This is very important in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- [Routinely clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces.

Learn more about what you can do to [protect yourself and others](#).

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Page last reviewed: May 22, 2020

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](#),
Division of Viral Diseases



Document 3:

**People Who Are at Higher Risk
for Severe Illness**

People Who Are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness

COVID-19 is a new disease and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease. Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, **older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions** might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- [People 65 years and older](#)
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with [underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled](#), including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
 - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

COVID-19: Are You at Higher Risk for Severe Illness?



Document 4:
**How to Protect Yourself &
Others**

How to Protect Yourself & Others

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19 illness. More information on [Are you at higher risk for serious illness](#).

Know how it spreads

- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
- The virus is thought to [spread mainly from person-to-person](#).
 - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
 - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
 - Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Everyone Should

Wash your hands often

- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home.** If possible, maintain 6 feet between the person who is sick and other household members.
- **Put distance between yourself and other people outside of your home.**
 - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
 - [Stay at least 6 feet \(about 2 arms' length\) from other people](#).
 - Do not gather in groups.
 - Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings.
 - Keeping distance from others is especially important for [people who are at higher risk of getting very sick](#).

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Everyone should wear a [cloth face cover](#) when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities.
 - Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- **If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect

- **Clean AND disinfect [frequently touched surfaces](#) daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them.** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- **Then, use a household disinfectant.** Most common [EPA-registered household disinfectant](#) [external icon](#) will work.

Monitor Your Health

- **Be alert for symptoms.** Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or [other symptoms of COVID-19](#).
 - Especially important if you are [running essential errands](#), going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a [physical distance of 6 feet](#).
- **Take your temperature** if symptoms develop.
 - Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen.
- Follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop.



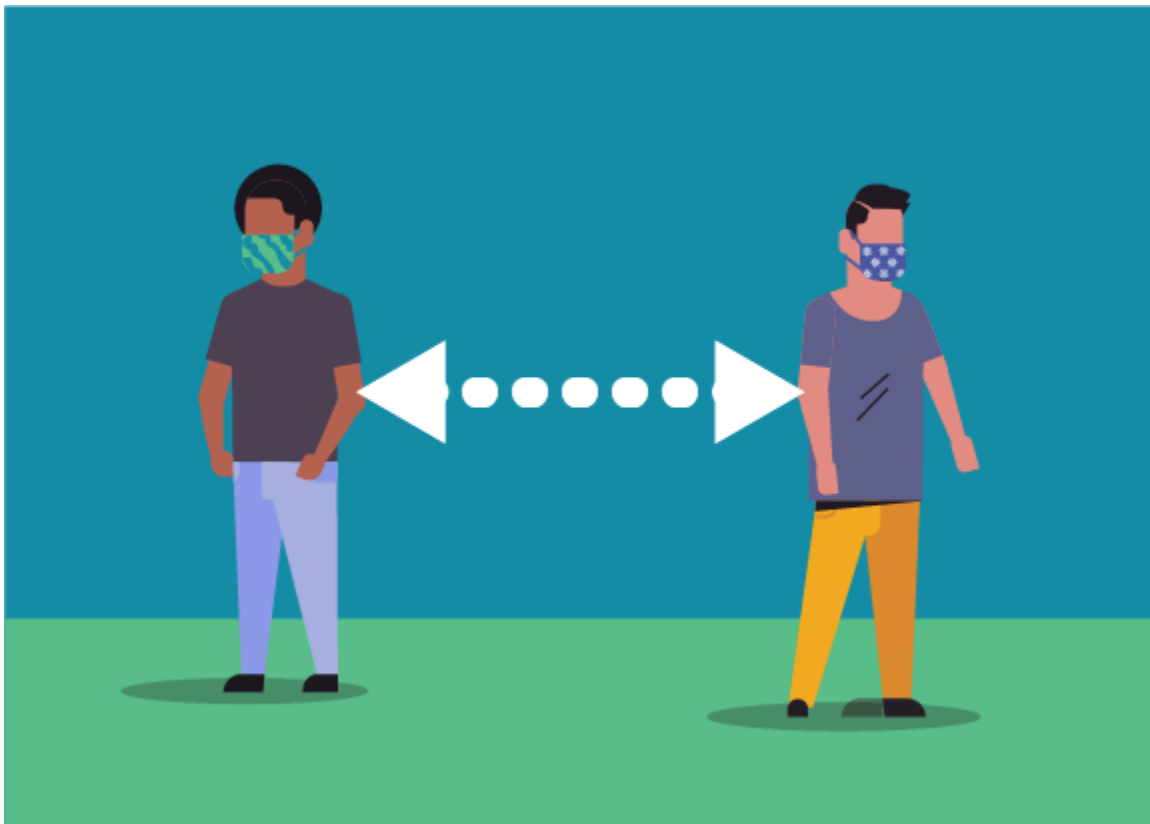
Document 5: Social Distancing

Social Distancing

Keep Your Distance to Slow the Spread

Limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

What is social distancing?



Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. To practice social or physical distancing:

- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people
- Do not gather in groups
- Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings

In addition to [everyday steps to prevent COVID-19](#), keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools we have to avoid being exposed to this virus and slowing its spread locally and across the country and world.

Limit close contact with others outside your household in indoor and outdoor spaces. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away from others when possible, even if you—or they—have no symptoms. Social distancing is especially important for [people who are at higher risk](#) for severe illness from COVID-19.

Many people have personal circumstances or situations that present challenges with practicing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please see the following guidance for additional recommendations and considerations for:

- [Households Living in Close Quarters: How to Protect Those Who Are Most Vulnerable](#)
 - [Living in Shared Housing](#)
 - [People with Disabilities](#)
 - [People Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Separate from others to limit the spread of COVID-19](#)
 - [Take care of yourself while you're sick](#)

Why practice social distancing?

COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) for a prolonged period. Spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. The droplets can also be inhaled into the lungs. Recent studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms likely also play a role in the spread of COVID-19.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. However, this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. COVID-19 can live for hours or days on a surface, depending on factors such as sunlight, humidity, and the type of surface. Social distancing helps limit opportunities to come in contact with contaminated surfaces and infected people outside the home.

Although the risk of severe illness may be different for everyone, anyone can get and spread COVID-19. Everyone has a role to play in slowing the spread and protecting themselves, their family, and their community.

Tips for social distancing

- Follow guidance from authorities where you live.
- If you need to shop for food or medicine at the grocery store or pharmacy, stay at least 6 feet away from others. Also consider other options:
 - Use mail-order for medications, if possible.
 - Consider a grocery delivery service.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a [cloth face covering](#) when around others, including when you have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store.
 - Cloth face coverings should NOT be placed on children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
 - Keep at least 6 feet between yourself and others, even when you wear a face covering.
- Avoid gatherings of any size outside your household, such as a friend's house, parks, restaurants, shops, or any other place. This advice applies to people of any age, including teens and younger adults. Children should not have in-person playdates while school is out. To help maintain social connections while social distancing, learn [tips to keep children healthy while school's out](#).
- Work from home when possible. See additional information for [critical infrastructure workforceexternal icon](#) from Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).
- Avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis, if possible.
- If you are a student or parent, talk to your school about options for digital/distance learning.

Stay connected while staying away. It is very important to stay in touch with friends and family that don't live in your home. Call, video chat, or stay connected using social media. Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations and having to socially distance yourself from someone you love can be difficult. [Read tips for stress and coping](#).

Need help? Know someone who does?

If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed with emotions like sadness, depression, or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others

- Call 911
- Visit the [Disaster Distress Helplineexternal icon](#), call 1-800-985-5990, or text TalkWithUs to 66746
- Visit the [National Domestic Violence Hotlineexternal icon](#) or call 1-800-799-7233 and TTY 1-800-787-3224



Document 6: Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Your cloth face covering protects them.
Their cloth face covering protects you.



CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings

Page last reviewed: May 23, 2020
Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](#),
[Division of Viral Diseases](#)

About Cloth Face Coverings

A cloth face covering may not protect the wearer, but it may keep the wearer from spreading the virus to others.

COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. [Studies and evidence](#) on infection control report that these droplets usually travel around 6 feet (about two arms lengths).

Wear Cloth Face Coverings

[CDC recommends](#) wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and gas stations.

- Cloth face coverings may slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.
- Cloth face coverings can be made from household items.



Prevent Spread by Those Without Symptoms

While people who are sick or know that they have COVID-19 should isolate at home, COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms and do not know that they are infected. That's why it's important for everyone to practice [social distancing](#) (staying at least 6 feet away from other people) and wear cloth face coverings in public settings. Cloth face coverings provide an extra layer to help prevent the respiratory droplets from traveling in the air and onto other people.

Who should, and who should not, wear face coverings

Who should wear	Who should not wear
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· People older than 2 years of age in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain

· Children under age 2
· Anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance

Page last reviewed: May 22, 2020

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](#),
[Division of Viral Diseases](#)

How to Make Cloth Face Coverings

CDC on Homemade Cloth Face Coverings

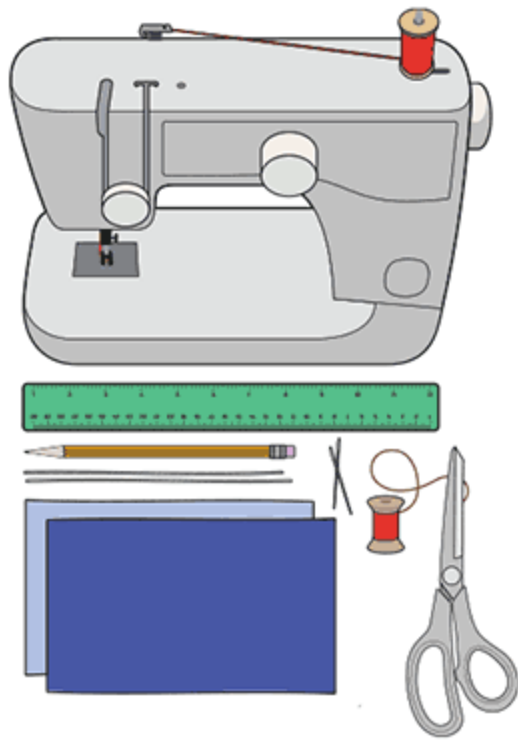
- **Who should NOT use cloth face coverings:** children under age 2, or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance
- **Cloth face coverings are NOT surgical masks or N-95 respirators.** Surgical masks and N-95 respirators must be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended in CDC guidance.

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other [social distancing](#) measures are difficult to maintain, like, grocery stores and pharmacies.

Simple cloth face coverings can be made at home and may help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Sew and No Sew Instructions

Sewn Cloth Face Covering

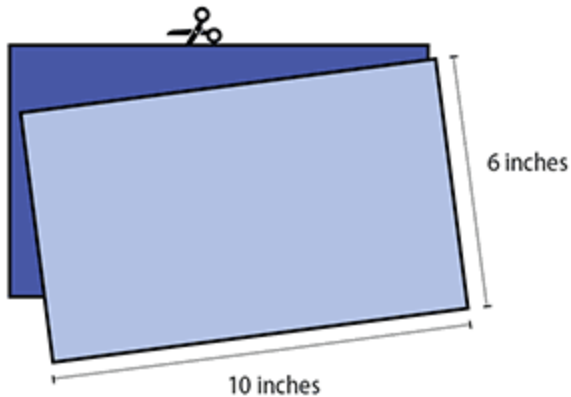


Materials

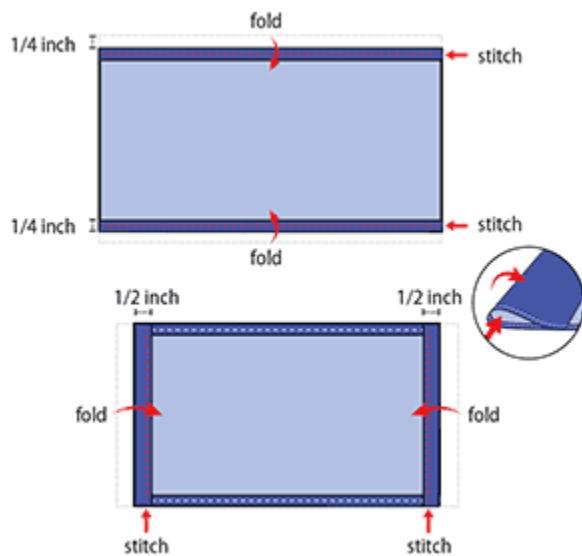
- Two 10"x6" rectangles of cotton fabric
- Two 6" pieces of elastic (or rubber bands, string, cloth strips, or hair ties)
- Needle and thread (or bobby pin)
- Scissors
- Sewing machine

Tutorial

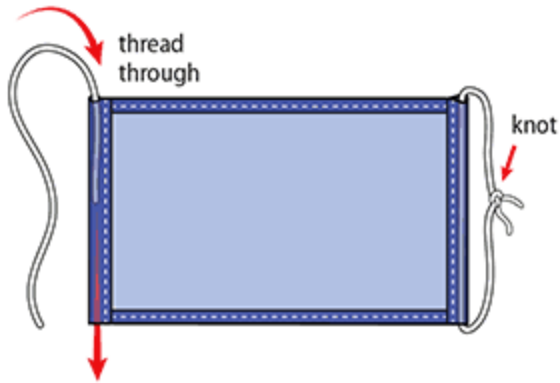
1. Cut out two 10-by-6-inch rectangles of cotton fabric. Use tightly woven cotton, such as quilting fabric or cotton sheets. T-shirt fabric will work in a pinch. Stack the two rectangles; you will sew the mask as if it was a single piece of fabric.



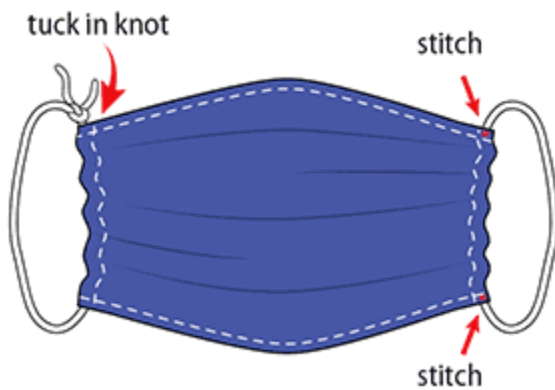
2. Fold over the long sides $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and hem. Then fold the double layer of fabric over $\frac{1}{2}$ inch along the short sides and stitch down.



3. Run a 6-inch length of $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch wide elastic through the wider hem on each side of the mask. These will be the ear loops. Use a large needle or a bobby pin to thread it through. Tie the ends tight.
Don't have elastic? Use hair ties or elastic head bands. If you only have string, you can make the ties longer and tie the mask behind your head.



4. Gently pull on the elastic so that the knots are tucked inside the hem. Gather the sides of the mask on the elastic and adjust so the mask fits your face. Then securely stitch the elastic in place to keep it from slipping.



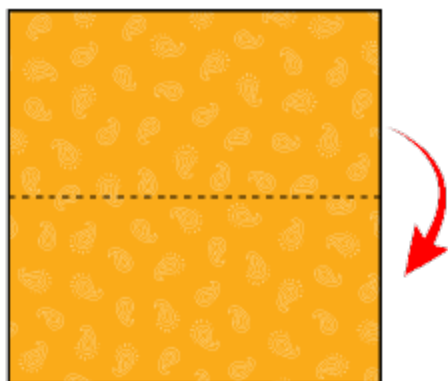
Non-sewn Face Covering

Materials

- Bandana, old t-shirt, or square cotton cloth (cut approximately 20"x20")
- Rubber bands (or hair ties)
- Scissors (if you are cutting your own cloth)

Tutorial

1.



Fold bandana in half.

2.



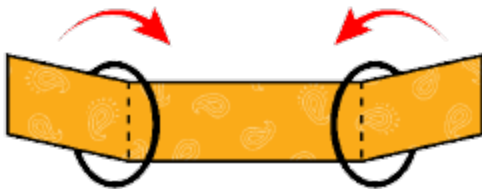
Fold top down. Fold bottom up.

3.



Place rubber bands or hair ties about 6 inches apart.

4.

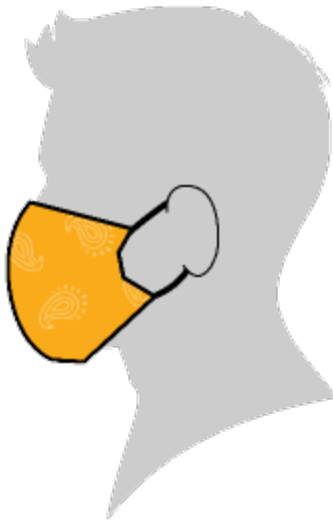


Fold side to the middle and tuck.

5.



6.



Make sure your cloth face covering:

- fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- completely covers the nose and mouth
- is secured with ties or ear loops
- includes multiple layers of fabric
- allows for breathing without restriction
- can be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

Page last reviewed: May 21, 2020

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](#),
[Division of Viral Diseases](#)

How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings are an additional step to help slow the spread of COVID-19 when combined with [every day preventive actions](#) and [social distancing](#) in public settings.

- **Who should NOT use cloth face coverings:** children under age 2, or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance
- **Cloth face coverings are NOT surgical masks or N-95 respirators.** Surgical masks and N-95 respirators must be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended in CDC guidance.

Wear your Face Covering Correctly

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily





Use the Face Covering to Protect Others

- Wear a face covering to help protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms
- Keep the covering on your face the entire time you're in public
- **Don't** put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- **Don't** touch the face covering, and, if you do, wash your hands

Follow Everyday Health Habits

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available





Take Off Your Cloth Face Covering Carefully, When You're Home

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place covering in the washing machine (learn more about [how to wash cloth face coverings](#))
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing.

How to Wash Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings are an additional step to help slow the spread of COVID-19 when combined with [every day preventive actions](#) and [social distancing](#) in public settings.

Cloth face coverings should be washed after each use. It is important to always [remove face coverings correctly](#) and [wash your hands](#) after handling or touching a used face covering.

How to Clean

Washing Machine

- You can include your face covering with your regular laundry.
- Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the face covering.

Washing by Hand

- Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
 - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) household bleach per gallon of room temperature water or
 - 4 teaspoons household bleach per quart of room temperature water
- Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection. Some bleach products, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing, may not be suitable for disinfection. Ensure the bleach product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.
- Soak the face covering in the bleach solution for 5 minutes.
- Rinse thoroughly with cool or room temperature water.

Make sure to completely dry cloth face covering after washing.

How to Dry

Dryer

- Use the highest heat setting and leave in the dryer until completely dry

Air Dry

- Lay flat and allow to completely dry. If possible, place the cloth face covering in direct sunlight.

Page last reviewed: May 22, 2020

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](#),
[Division of Viral Diseases](#)

Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings, Especially in Areas of Significant Community-Based Transmission

Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

CDC continues to study the spread and effects of the novel coronavirus across the United States. We now know from [recent studies](#) that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.

It is critical to emphasize that maintaining 6-foot social distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus. CDC is additionally advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.