

Hanford workers may wear own masks to work, if desired

The Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD) issued updated guidance on Friday, April 3, encouraging individuals to wear non-medical masks when they leave their homes.

While a prudent recommendation, the guidance is not mandatory and is intended as an additional measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now also [recommends](#) wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

Hanford Site workers who choose to wear a face covering should plan to bring their own from home. Medical-grade masks are in very short supply and are being reserved for health-care workers, so they are generally not available.

The BFHD has posted links with [instructions on how to make one's own mask and](#) suggests the use of homemade masks, fabric bandanas, scarves, and ski or bike masks that cover the mouth and nose. Employees who choose to wear masks **should ensure** that their entire face is visible when entering the Site through secured barricades or if requested by Hanford Patrol or county and state law enforcement officers.

When wearing face coverings, individuals should continue to practice social-distancing guidelines. The BFHD also continues to reinforce the importance of **washing hands properly, social distancing and staying home at the first sign of symptoms** as the most effective ways of stemming the spread of COVID-19 and protecting ourselves, our colleagues and our neighbors.

For Hanford Site information visit:

- DOE Hanford: <https://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/COVID-19>
- WRPS: <https://wrpstoc.com/wrps-covid-19/>
- BNI: <https://www.hanfordvitplant.com/employee-information>
- MSA: <https://msa.hanford.gov/page.cfm/EmployeeCommunications>
- CHPRC: <https://chprc.hanford.gov/page.cfm/employeeCOVID19Information>
- ***Due to their smaller workforce, HPMC and WAI will continue to communicate directly with their employees***

The Washington State Department of Health has established a novel coronavirus call center: 1-800-525-0127 and press #

More information is available at:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Washington State Department of Health COVID-19 website: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

- Benton-Franklin Health District COVID-19 information:
https://www.bfhd.wa.gov/news/what_s_new/novel_coronavirus_in_washington_state