



## Press Release

Date: April 10, 2020

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## Community Face Mask Collection

Olmsted County -- The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) recently recommended that all individuals wear cloth face masks or coverings when in public. While face masks do not replace social distancing measures, they can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others. As the demands from our non-medical essential service staff and volunteers continue to increase, government and healthcare partners have come together to help collect and distribute masks to organizations in need.

### Community mask requirements:

- Masks should follow CDC guidelines
- Masks should fit snug but be comfortable against the face and allow for breathing without restriction

### Patterns to follow:

It is recommended that all masks be in alignment with the CDC's guidelines for masks. There are several patterns available that follow CDC requirements. They include:

- [CDC pattern](#)
- [Deaconess Health - How to Make a Face Mask \(video\)](#)
- [Allina Health - How to Make a face mask \(PDF\)](#)
- [Filter Opening Face Mask Pattern \(video\)](#)

### Donation Drop off locations:

Finished masks should be placed in a clean plastic bag (e.g., plastic grocery store bag tied shut or sealed plastic bag).

- Rochester Fire Stations have bins located outside in their parking lots that are available 24/7:
  - Fire Station 1: 521 S Broadway
  - Fire Station 2: 2185 Wheelock Drive NE
  - Fire Station 3: 2755 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW
  - Fire Station 4: 1875 41<sup>st</sup> Street NW
  - Fire Station 5: 305 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE
- Mayo Clinic accepts donations weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at drive-up donations centers, located at:
  - Gonda Building Main entrance along 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SW

- Mayo Family Clinic Southeast, 4544 Canal Place SE
- \*Donated masks will be used by staff who do not work in patient care areas as well as by patients and visitors.
- Olmsted Medical Center accepts finished masks weekdays, 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at Olmsted Medical Center's Marketing and Foundation Offices at:
    - 102 Elton Hills Drive
    - More information on website: <https://www.olmmed.org/facemasks/>
  - Rochester Public Schools accepts donations weekdays from 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM at:
    - Franklin Elementary School, 1801 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SE – Door 1
    - Jefferson Elementary School, 1201 10<sup>th</sup> Ave NE – Door 1 and 2
    - Gage Elementary School, 1300 40<sup>th</sup> Street NW – Door 1
    - Sunset Terrace Elementary School, 1707 19<sup>th</sup> Ave NW – Door 1

Individuals who would like to donate fabric or elastic are asked to call the City of Rochester COVID-19 Information Hotline at 507-328-2822. Collection bins for materials are also located outside Rochester Fire Stations. Zumbro Valley Medical Society will direct these materials to individuals making face masks for agencies providing essential services.

**If your organization needs masks:**

Homemade face masks will be provided to congregate facilities, first responder agencies, and homecare and other healthcare settings (other than Mayo Clinic or Olmsted Medical Center) first; other agencies providing essential services to the public needing masks will also be provided if supplies allow. Agencies can request a mask by calling the City of Rochester COVID-19 Information Hotline at 507-328-2822.

Thank you for all the individuals donating their time to sew masks. Your assistance provides our essential workers with additional safeguards as they continue to perform their daily responsibilities. By working together, we will defeat the COVID-19 virus and our community will be stronger.

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