

## Additional Guidance for Essential Personnel: Face coverings at all times while away from home

Dear Colleagues,

There's growing evidence that in addition to the well-established guidelines for hygiene, sanitation and social distancing, **the spread of the SARS-COV-2 virus can be further slowed by people covering their nose and mouth whenever they are outside their residences.**<sup>1</sup> The face covering need not be a medical mask, reserved whenever possible for health care providers or others performing tasks that require such a mask. According to public health officials, a simple scarf or handkerchief can suffice to help prevent further transmission of the disease.<sup>2</sup>

We now have a substantial number of confirmed and presumptive positive COVID-19 cases in Santa Barbara County and a substantially larger number of persons who are infected but asymptomatic that are very likely the dominant source of future infections.

In view of this information, all faculty, staff, and researchers carrying out essential research related activities on campus should be extremely diligent in practicing good hygiene, sanitation and social distancing at all times while away from home. To provide even more safety, **we now strongly recommend that essential research personnel on campus cover their faces for the entire time they are away from their residences.** Some practical tips include the following:

- A simple piece of cloth can be used as a face covering.
- Your face covering should be washed regularly, and at least daily.
- Be careful to **handle your face covering with clean hands** and to take care where you store it after use and before washing it.
- In many cases, researchers already wear a mask in the lab. If it can be used outside and then also inside the lab, consider carrying a fresh mask home so that you can start wearing it when you leave your residence on your way to campus.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-N95-mask-DIY-face-mask-health.html>

As the campus works to order face coverings for its on-site workers, you should work with your research group to find the most effective ways to follow this recommendation. As an interim measure, consider the creative use of materials available at home, including bandanas, fabric masks, and neck gaiters — also referred to as neck warmers or buffs.

Once again, face coverings are only effective when combined with all other mitigation steps. They do not replace them.

"Stay in place, maintain your space, and cover your face"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Incandela". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

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