Face Coverings

An item made of two more layers of washable, breathable fabric that fits snugly against the sides of the face without any gaps, completely covering the nose and mouth and fitting securely under the chin.

Acceptable masks:

- Non-medical disposable masks for single use (permissible even though they are not washable)
- Neck gaiters made of two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric, or folded to make two layers
- Masks made with tightly woven fabric – fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source
- Masks with two or three layers
- Masks with inner filter pockets
- Masks that have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask
- Masks must be secured to the head with ties, ear loops, or elastic bands that go behind the head.

Masks that are **not acceptable**:

- Masks that do not fit properly (large gaps, too loose or too tight)
- Masks made from materials that are hard to breathe through, such as plastic, vinyl or leather
- Masks made from loosely woven fabric or those that are knitted – fabrics that let light pass through
- Masks with one layer
- Masks with exhalation valves or vents – the hole in the material may allow your respiratory droplets to escape and reach others.
- Wearing a scarf or ski mask as a mask

Do not use a face shield or goggles as a substitute for masks. Goggles do not cover the nose and mouth. Face shields have large gaps below and alongside the face where your respiratory droplets may escape and reach others around you.

Wearing a mask does not raise the carbon dioxide level in the air you breathe. Carbon dioxide completely escapes into the air through and around the sides of the mask when you breathe or talk. Carbon dioxide is small enough to easily pass through any cloth mask material. **The virus that causes COVID-19 is much larger than carbon dioxide so it cannot pass as easily through a properly designed and properly worn mask.**

From the OSHA ETS