



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Routt County Board of County Commissioners Recommends Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for General Population without Affecting Supply for First Responders

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, April 3, 2020 — Routt County Commissioners Corrigan, Melton and Monger met yesterday and today to discuss the recent discussions on the national level about using face masks in the general population. After advice from Routt County's Medical Officer, Dr. Brian Harrington, they issued this statement as guidance for the community as a personal choice:

"As more information becomes available and we endeavor to implement as many strategies as we can to reduce the spread of COVID-19, we encourage the use of personal masks to help prevent the spread of the virus. We believe that:

- Using a mask is a personal choice and not a Public Health Order.
- Using a personal protective mask is recommended for the general public to prevent the spread of disease and increase the safety of others.
- Wearing a mask is primarily intended to protect others. We know that many people may be carriers of the virus and shedding it without knowing it. Wearing the mask can help individuals who are asymptomatic from shedding the disease to others.
- ALL requirements of the stay at home order remain in place. You are NOT safer just because you are wearing a mask and should not risk exposure due to a false sense of security. Masks are to protect others, not you.
- Individuals should NOT make purchases of surgical or N-95 masks typically intended for use by healthcare professionals for personal use. If you already have these items, you may use them, but do not purchase or hoard them. Homemade masks (or similar) which are not appropriate for use in a healthcare setting are the best option for individuals who wear a mask in public.
- Wearing a mask is most critical in public settings such as grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, etc.
- Wearing a mask may make you more likely to touch your face, and this should still be avoided.
- Never share masks."

Non-N95 masks are available for purchase online or at local essential businesses. You can make your own mask using cotton, silk or linen.

Some Public Health Guidelines to consider when making your own mask:

1. A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face.
2. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.
3. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen.
4. It is a good idea to wash your cloth face covering frequently, ideally after each use, or at least daily. Have a bag or bin to keep cloth face coverings in until they can be laundered with detergent and hot water and dried on a hot cycle. If you must re-wear your cloth face covering before washing, wash your hands immediately after putting it back on and avoid touching your face.
5. Discard face coverings that:
 - a. No longer cover the nose and mouth
 - b. Have stretched out or damaged ties or straps
 - c. Cannot stay on the face
 - d. Have holes or tears in the fabric
 - e. Source: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Face-Coverings-Guidance.aspx>
6. If making masks for other people, please wear gloves or masks and or, wash them in hot water before distributing.
7. If getting donated cloth masks, wash in hot water before wearing.
8. Never share a mask.
9. Making Mask instructions: <https://www.nytimes.com/article/how-to-make-face-mask-coronavirus.html>

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