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COVID-19 Protecting Yourself – Face Coverings

Freestate is seeing an increase in jobsites that now require the use of facemasks. The CDC now recommends wearing of face coverings, including cloth, that covers the nose and mouth to slow the spread of the virus and to help people who may have the virus from transmitting it to others.

Recent CDC studies outline that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms. Even those who eventually develop symptoms can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. The virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms.

On jobsites in which the GC/Client is mandating the use of masks, Freestate will be undertaking the following protocol to comply with those requirements:

All personnel shall wear masks while on mandated mask project sites.

(It should be noted that purchasing of masks is currently underway but due to the massive national demand are not available overnight and in some cases are months out. We currently have 1000 masks that are supposed to ship on Monday, April 15, 2020. We have another 5000 surgical masks that are supposedly to arrive on Monday April 15, 2020. We also ordered another 200 balaclavas that may not be available until Thursday.)

Wearing a face covering is **IN ADDITION** to other community spread prevention measures including:

- Maintaining 6-feet social distancing
- Frequent hand cleaning
- Cover cough and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect surfaces regularly

A cloth face covering cannot be used in lieu of task specific PPE requirements (N95 masks, etc. when required).

Freestate continues to stay current with the fluidity of this pandemic and as the protocols change, we shall endeavor to stay current with those recommendations. The safety of our personnel is our priority and a core value of our organization. Your continued support,

AES Electrical, Inc

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Freestate Electrical Service

extreme determination and work ethic exhibited by all of you daily is a credit to you individually, and the strength of our organization during these trying times.

Below are Frequently Asked Questions about cloth face coverings from the CDC.

Why do you need to wear cloth face coverings? In light of new data about [how COVID-19 spreads](#), along with evidence of widespread COVID-19 illness in communities across the country, CDC recommends that people wear a [cloth face covering](#) to cover their nose and mouth in the community setting. This is to protect people around you if you are infected but do not have symptoms.

When do you need to wear a cloth face covering? A cloth face covering should be worn whenever people are in a community setting, especially in situations where you may be near people. These settings include grocery stores and pharmacies. These face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing. Cloth face coverings are especially important to wear in public in areas of widespread COVID-19 illness.

Do I still need to stay at least 6 feet away from people if wearing a cloth face covering? Yes. Wearing cloth face coverings is an additional public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19. CDC still recommends that you stay at least 6 feet away from other people (social distancing), frequent hand cleaning and other everyday preventive actions. A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer, but it may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms. View CDC's guidance on [how to protect yourself](#).

What type of cloth face covering should be worn? Cloth face coverings can be made from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost.

Who should not wear cloth face coverings? Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children younger than 2 years of age, anyone who has trouble breathing, has a heart condition, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.

Why is CDC recommending cloth face coverings instead of medical grade facemasks? Surgical masks and N95 respirators are in short supply and should be reserved for healthcare workers or other medical first responders, as recommended by CDC guidance.