

USE OF MASKS FOR COMMUNITY RESPONSE

COVID-19

Guidance on **reuse of facemasks** to reduce contact transmission:

- Remove mask after each encounter with a community member
- **If soiled, damaged, or hard to breathe through**, mask should be discarded
- Store masks as indicated below for best results



Storage & Donning of Used Facemasks:

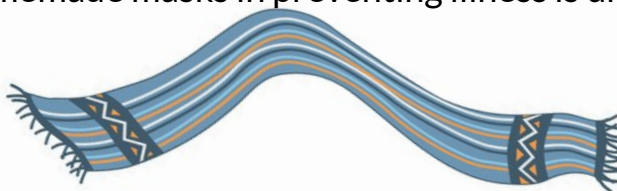
- Facemasks should be stored folded with the outer surface held inward against itself to reduce contact with other surfaces during storage
- Folded masks should be stored in a clean **sealable paper bag or breathable container**
- Each mask should have **ONLY ONE WEARER**
- **Clean hands with soap and water OR alcohol-based sanitizer before and after touching/adjusting the mask for wear**
- **Do not touch the outside of the facemask** -- if contact occurs, wash hands as described above
- Wear a pair of non-sterile gloves when re-donning the mask, discard gloves when finished

Alternatives to Facemasks:

When traditional facemasks are unavailable, the following household items may be used to provide some protection from illness

* The capability of homemade masks in preventing illness is unknown

- Bandana
- Scarf
- Cloth Masks



Each alternative should have only **ONE WEARER** and be stored properly to avoid spreading illness

Wash facemask alternative often:

- In washing machine on warm cycle with gentle detergent, or
- hand-wash with warm water and gentle soap

Follow proper hand hygiene guidelines when removing or donning masks