

Cloth Mask Guidance

Background:

- Latest pandemic information from Chief Medical Officer for Canada, advises that use of non-medical grade masks (cloth masks), when worn properly, can reduce the spread of his or her own infectious respiratory droplets.

Sources of Public Health Information on cloth masks:

- <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/public-health-measures/guidance-on-homemade-masks>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/04/ccmoh-communication-use-of-non-medical-masks-or-facial-coverings-by-the-public.html>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/about-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html>

Key points:

- Cloth Masks are not considered Personal Protective Equipment. They are considered an additional or supplementary hygiene measure to further prevent general transmission of COVID 19 in the general public.
- Cloth masks are an individual choice and may reduce transmission of disease to others.
- Cloth masks do not protect the worker, rather protect others from possible transmission.
- If an employee is exposed, or likely to be exposed to COVID 19, they are required to use PPE and following employer-based infection control directives.
- The GoS will not be providing cloth masks for employee use at this point. We will continue to monitor and evaluate the public health information and direction related to cloth masks.

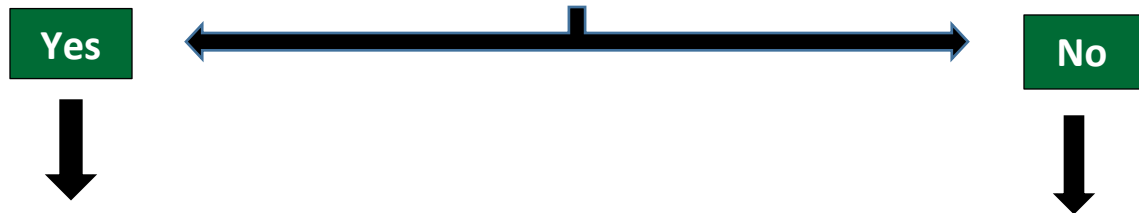
Decision Tree for Cloth Mask Use and Provision

Is there a likelihood of exposure to COVID 19



Complete worksite Job Hazard Analysis, follow ministry direction on PPE use and infection control protocols

Does employee want to use a cloth mask?



Are cloth masks provided in the workplace?



Cloth Mask is not required by the employer, and remains individual personal hygiene choice

Establish a safe use practice for cloth mask use

Provide public health direction on safe use of employee provided cloth masks

Considerations:

- Replacement of masks
- Washing of masks
- Application of use
- Hygiene associated to use

