



## Guidelines for Face Mask and Medical Glove Use

Rosendin is not mandating the use of face masks or medical gloves on its projects but below are guidelines for the use of each should you elect to wear said PPE. Please note that client, general contractor, or site rules may differ. Please comply with any specific guidelines as mandated per your job site.

The CDC continues to study the spread and effects of the novel coronavirus across the United States. We now know from recent studies that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. Considering this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.

It is critical to emphasize that maintaining 6-foot social distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus. CDC is additionally advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

### Face Coverings and Masks

The cloth face coverings recommended by the CDC are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

## Respirator Use

A respirator can't protect an employee if it doesn't fit their face. Certain respirators, known as tight-fitting respirators, must form a tight seal with the face or neck to work properly.

Employees must be fit tested before using a respirator in the workplace, and respirators must be retested at least every 12 months to make sure that it still fits properly.

## How to Wear a Cloth Face Covering



Cloth face coverings should—

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

### **Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly? How regularly?**

Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.



### **How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering?**

A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a face covering.

### **How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?**

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

### **About medical gloves**

Medical gloves are examples of personal protective equipment that are used to protect the wearer and/or the patient from the spread of infection or illness during medical procedures and examinations. Medical gloves are one part of an infection-control strategy. Medical gloves are disposable and include examination gloves, surgical gloves, and medical gloves for handling chemotherapy agents (chemotherapy gloves). These gloves are regulated by the FDA as Class I reserved medical devices that require a 510(k) premarket notification. FDA reviews these devices to ensure that performance criteria such as leak resistance, tear resistance and biocompatibility are met.

### **When to use medical gloves**

Use medical gloves when your hands may touch someone else's body fluids (such as blood, respiratory secretions, vomit, urine or feces), certain hazardous drugs or some potentially contaminated site.

### **What you should know before using medical gloves**

- Wash your hands before putting on sterile gloves.
- Make sure your gloves fit properly for you to wear them comfortably during all patient care activities.



- Some people are allergic to the natural rubber latex used in some medical gloves. FDA requires manufacturers to identify on the package labeling the materials used to make the gloves. If you or your patient is allergic to natural rubber latex, you should choose gloves made from other synthetic materials (such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC), nitrile, or polyurethane).
- Be aware that sharp objects can puncture medical gloves.
- Always change your gloves if they rip or tear.
- After removing gloves, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub.
- Never reuse medical gloves.
- Never wash or disinfect medical gloves.
- Never share medical gloves with other users.

On December 19, 2016, the FDA published a final rule banning powdered gloves based on the unreasonable and substantial risk of illness or injury to individuals exposed to the powdered gloves. The risks to both patients and health care providers when internal body tissue is exposed to the powder include severe airway inflammation and hypersensitivity reactions. Powder particles may also trigger the body's immune response, causing tissue to form around the particles (granulomas) or scar tissue formation (adhesions) which can lead to surgical complications.

## References

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/medical-gloves>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>