

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is providing reusable cloth face coverings for you to use when providing services to clients who are not exhibiting symptoms of illness. Cloth face coverings will be shipped the week of May 4, 2020. Here's what you need to know:

How do I get my cloth face coverings?

- Your cloth face coverings and your clients' cloth face coverings will be mailed directly to you. You will receive a one-time shipment of cloth face coverings.

How many cloth face coverings will I get? Will my client get some, too?

- Each individual provider will be given 2 reusable cloth face coverings.
- You will also be provided with 2 cloth face coverings to give to your client. It is up to the client if they'd like to wear them. In some cases, clients shouldn't wear a cloth face covering (for example, if it would interfere with their breathing).

When to use cloth face coverings

- These cloth face coverings are NOT to be used when providing services to clients that have a confirmed case of COVID-19 or are displaying symptoms of illness such as fever, cough, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, changes in sense of taste or smell or diarrhea.
- Cloth face coverings are to be used when caring for clients who do not have COVID-19 and proper personal protective equipment (PPE) is not available due to the severe national shortage.
- [Washington State Department of Health \(DOH\) recommends](#) people wear cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance from each other and during activities like trips to the grocery store, pharmacy, health clinic or when providing care in a client's home.

Washing and caring for cloth face coverings

- [DOH recommends](#) that cloth face coverings are washed after each use. Do not use the same, unwashed mask with more than one client.
- Wash cloth face coverings with detergent and hot water and dry on a hot cycle.
- If the cloth face covering must be re-worn without washing it, wash hands immediately after putting it back on.
- Cloth face coverings won't be as effective after 15-25 washes.
- Discard cloth face coverings that:
 - No longer cover nose and mouth
 - Have stretched out or damaged ties and straps
 - Cannot stay on the user's face
 - Have holes or tears in the fabric

Other considerations

- Wash your hands before putting on the cloth face covering.
- Adjust the cloth face covering once it's on to make it fit as best as possible.
- Make sure you can still breathe with the cloth face covering on.

How to request proper PPE

If you're caring for a client with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID19, reach out to your [Area Agency on Aging \(AAA\) or DDA contact](#).