

April 7, 2020

Good morning Team MDOT SHA,

As you may have heard, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has provided guidance on the voluntary use of cloth masks. The 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.” Here are links to the guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

As you will see in the recommendation, **the best defense for preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus continues to be maintaining proper social distancing of at least 6 feet between those persons around you and regular/proper handwashing.** The voluntary use of the suggested masks is an added measure to reduce the spread of our germs to others, particularly when we may be contagious but not showing any signs of having the virus. These masks are not intended for use as a respirator like a N95 or KN95 mask. The following link offers suggestions for making your own masks at home if you choose to do so:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

To further reduce the opportunities for transmission of the virus in our workplace, the standard of having no more than two (2) personnel per vehicle will continue. It is preferred to have one (1) person in a vehicle if possible, if not, please consider using a double cab truck for additional spacing and/or both persons should use a face mask/covering while in the vehicle.

Please continue to be vigilant in your work and home encounters with others to prevent your exposure to COVID-19. Whether you choose to make or purchase your own mask for use at home or work (not required), please don't allow it to create a false sense of safety which may reduce your use of proper social distancing. You may have noticed while moving between home and your workplace or essential business, where people are closer to you or others than they should be when they are using a mask or gloves.

Thank you for all you do to serve this agency and the customers that travel our roads and highways!