

Fabric Surgical Masks Information



Thank you for your interest in sewing fabric surgical masks for healthcare personnel caring for COVID-19 patients. Our supply of manufactured surgical masks are at critical low levels throughout the nation and locally.

Your time and talent can greatly impact our ability to care for our community members and help ensure our safety as we do. Fabric masks offer the benefit of being able to be washed and re-used. Still a large supply is needed, as each healthcare worker will need to change their mask several times during their shifts, as the mask becomes soiled or damp – for maximum protection.

We aren't worried about looking stylish -- but we are concerned about functionality. Non-matching fabrics, thread, binding strips are just fine – but a well sewn mask with no frayed edges or missed seams or “holes” is important.

In order to make sure the masks are as safe and as effective as possible. We ask that you consider the following points.

- It is most helpful to use a standard pattern to ensure proper fit and function.
- **Please use either of the following patterns. They are most similar to our current products and offer a filter pouch in which a disposable filter can be placed to increase their effectiveness.**
 - **Properfit Clothing Co® PM 2.5 face mask.** This company has a paper [pattern that is available for download for \\$2.99](#). You can then print the pattern on your home printer. The company has a Youtube video and facebook page that have a link to the download and an instruction how-to-video. Search “[How to make a PM 2.5 face mask](#)” by Properfit Clothing.
 - **Easy to Sew® Face mask with filter pocket.** There is a [how-to Youtube video available that includes pattern information](#). Search “How to make face masks with pocket and adjustable wire sewing tutorials”.
- **Written directions for the Easy to Sew® pattern and Properfit Clothing Co® to go along with the videos and/or for those who do not have access to the internet will be available on RMC website.**
- Recommended fabric for the outer portion of the mask includes heavier, non-stretch fabric – such as denim, duck cloth, canvas, twill, or other tight woven fabric.
- Recommended fabric for the inner lining and filter pocket can be other cotton, cotton-blend non-stretch fabric. It can be thinner and softer, but again recommend minimal or non-stretch.
- Polyester or other less breathable fabric will not work as well, due to moisture produced with breathing.
- If using denim or other fabric that is being “recycled”, please be sure it is clean and in good shape. Worn or dirty fabric will not be protective

Fabric Surgical Masks Information



- Elastic should be in good shape, with plenty of stretch and of an appropriate size to fit over the ears. 1/16 in round cord or 1/8 inch braided work best.
- If elastic is not available, fabric ties can be sewn on the mask. There will need to be 4 ties (one tie on each of the 4 corners). Ties should be approx. ¼ inch in width, sewn in such a way that there are no frayed edges, and long enough to be tied into a bow on the top of the head (for the top corner and behind the head for the bottom corner).
- The 3.5. to 4 inch plastic coated bendy strips across the top of the masks is important to allow the user to bend the metal to create a close fit over the nose. Two 4 inch plastic coated twist ties work well. Paper twist ties do not hold up to washing. Amazon has packs of 200+ for a reasonable price if you or a group are making a large number.
- Extra wide double bias tape can be purchased. It is also easy to make if you prefer, or if supplies are limited. There are instructions and videos online. Written instructions are also included at the end of each written pattern.

Completed Masks

Enclose completed masks in a closed plastic bag or closed plastic box.

RMC will launder them prior to use so you do not need to wash them.

Regional Medical Center (RMC) is a hospital located at:

Regional Medical Center
PO Box 359
709 West Main Street
Manchester, Iowa 52057
www.regmedctr.org