Taking care of your masks

Follow these tips to correctly clean, store, and use different types of masks. Wear a mask and watch your distance any time you’re near people you don’t live with to protect you and others from COVID-19.

**USING CLOTH MASKS**

- **Reuse clean cloth masks as often as you want.**
- Wash them with your regular laundry or by hand.
- Use regular laundry soap and the warmest water you can for the fabric.
- Wash them when they get dirty or at least once a day after you wear one all day.
- Dry them with your regular laundry or hang them to dry.

**USING PAPER MASKS**

- **Do not wash or reuse paper masks, like blue surgical masks.**
- Throw them away when they get dirty or after you wear one all day.
- Masks not made with fabric will break down in a washing machine or if you scrub them.

**TAKING OFF YOUR MASK**

- Touch only the ear loops or ties.
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash or sanitize your hands after touching a used mask and before doing anything else.
- When you take a break from wearing your mask, like when you eat, fold the outside corners together and put it in a paper bag.

It’s best to have more than one mask so you always have a clean, dry mask.

Masks should not be worn by children younger than age two, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unable to remove the mask without help.

For more information on wearing masks, visit [health.ri.gov/covid/wearingmasks](http://health.ri.gov/covid/wearingmasks)