

# REOPENING RI

## 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](https://health.ri.gov/covid/wearingmasks)

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