

# Bad River Public Health Release

## New tribal wide face mask, Face Shield, Face Coverings Requirement

Effective Immediately, Bad River Public Health is issuing a Tribal wide face mask, face shield, face coverings requirement.

This requirement applies Tribal wide to: All Tribal Buildings and Tribal Enterprise Areas

- everyone age 5 and older wear a face covering or mask when in any and all Bad River buildings and transportation vehicles, where others are present. We recognize this is not a standard infection prevention, however, we find ourselves in extraordinary times and given current circumstances, this requirement is necessary.
- Per the requirement, individuals must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth when in the public areas of the Tribal work settings (Hallways, restrooms, commons areas), waiting in lines, and while on public transportation, or are in places where the six feet of social distancing isn't possible. Pam Feustel, Bad River Public Health Nurse, states that "social distancing and wearing masks are going to be our most effective tools in slowing the spread of COVID and keeping our community safe."
- If someone is unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition or disability, please ask that Tribal Office or business for reasonable accommodation. For Tribal Employees seeking an exemption, please check with your immediate supervisor, and consult with public health. Children age 2 through 4 are highly encouraged to wear masks in public, children 5 and older are required to wear masks. If your child is not able to wear a mask, please plan ahead and avoid public areas referenced in this memo.

Masks will be available at the entrance of each building. They will be issued at the start of each shift, and continued to be worn throughout the day. If employees are at their work station/desk and are able to social distance (6ft), it is not required to keep the mask on. In the event that the mask becomes visibly

soiled, saturated, or damaged, a new mask must be obtained. We ask all personnel to make every effort to help preserve the supply of PPE and reduce the need for replacement masks whenever possible. In place of a procedural face mask, simply wear a bandana, scarf, or neck gaiter around your nose and mouth. Or you may create a cloth face covering by either sewing one or using a no-sew method on the CDC website. Medical-grade surgical masks or N95 respirators are not required or necessary for general public use. Please see attached procedure on how to Don (apply) and Doff (remove) a face mask.

In addition to wearing a mask, these actions will help protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- **Stay home if you are sick or feel off.**
- **Stay home if you do not need to go out.** Working from home, virtual gatherings, and using curbside or delivery ordering are still the safest and best options to protect yourself and others.
- **Stay 6 feet from other people.** Respiratory droplets are in the air when other people cough, sneeze, talk and breathe. Staying 6 feet from others will lower the chances of you coming in contact with the virus from those droplets.
- **Assume you have come in contact with COVID-19 if you go out.** Watch for symptoms like fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. If you have these symptoms, call your doctor to be tested.

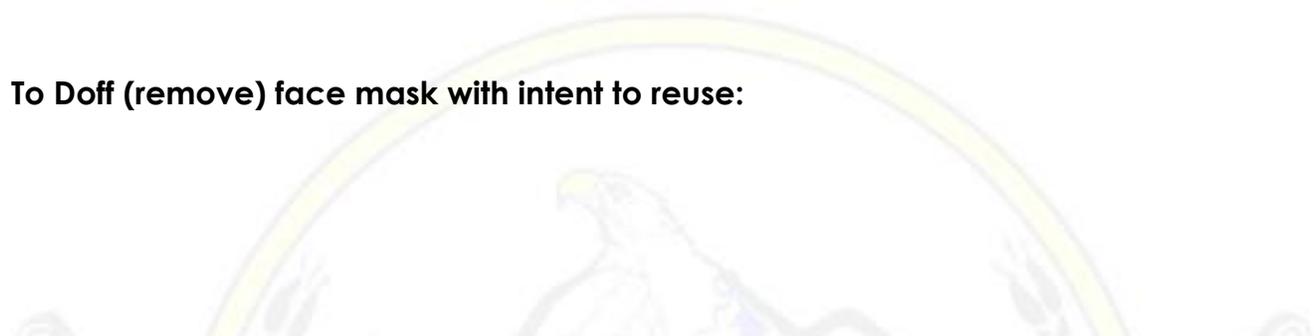
#### **Public Health Contacts:**

Pam Feustel  
Phone: 715-682-7133 ext. 4344  
Cell: 715-292-7368  
[p.fesutel@badriverhwc.com](mailto:p.fesutel@badriverhwc.com)

Tina Gerovac-Lavasseur  
Phone: 715-682-7133 ext. 4501  
Cell: 715-292-9666  
[t.gerovac@badriverhwc.com](mailto:t.gerovac@badriverhwc.com)

#### **[Infection Prevention Guidance on Donning and Doffing Face Masks](#)**

**To Doff (remove) face mask with intent to reuse:**



1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Remove mask (remove procedure mask by holding the ear loops. The front is contaminated so remove slowly and carefully.)
3. After removing facemask, visually inspect for contamination, distortion in shape/form. If soiled, torn, or saturated the mask should be discarded.
4. If the facemask is NOT visibly soiled, torn, or saturated, carefully store on a paper towel, or in a bag, exterior side down.
5. Perform hand hygiene.

**To Re-Don (apply) Mask:**

1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Grasp Mask (pinch procedure mask at the ear loops)
3. Place over face (secure ear loops behind the ears. Secure mask)
4. Perform hand hygiene

**A disposable facemask can be worn throughout your shift if not visibly soiled, torn or saturated, and NOT touched while delivering patient care.**