



**Town of Farmington Fire Department
1 Monteith Drive Farmington, CT 06032**

Phone: (860) 675-2322 Fax: (860) 675-2323

www.Farmington-CT.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: TFFD Personnel

FROM: Steve Hoffmann, Director of Fire & Rescue Services *SH*

DATE: April 16, 2020

RE: Use of Face Coverings (COVID-19)

The Farmington Valley Health District has issued guidance for the use of face coverings during this COVID-19 Pandemic. It is now recommended that individuals wear, at a minimum, a cloth face mask or covering when going outside where there is likely to be interaction with the public. This includes when going to the grocery store, pharmacy, gas station, etc. This is in addition to social distancing, not in lieu of social distancing.

While interacting with the public in the process of your duties or while on shift as a firefighter, you shall wear a face covering at a minimum when in public. Wearing a mask will help to reduce the possibility of spreading the virus through droplets of saliva. Even homemade masks can stop large droplets that form when coughing, sneezing, and even talking. This is critical since we know that a significant portion of COVID-19 positive individuals do not exhibit symptoms and can infect others well before they show any signs of illness.

This guidance on cloth face masks shall not supersede the use of medical grade masks, such as surgical or N95 masks, when providing patient care in a medical emergency setting. The correct level of PPE should be utilized for interactions with COVID-19 patients following, at a minimum, CDC guidelines. When conducting investigations or fire operations, the use of face covering shall be utilized when entering any building. The level of face covering protection guidance is located in the below Face Covering/Respirator Protection Guidance Matrix as a minimum and can be increased at the discretion of the incident commander, such as full SCBA, surgical mask, N95 or cloth mask. The level face covering/respiratory protection will depend on the incident type and what is required to mitigate the incident. Some level of face covering in the below Face Covering/Respirator Protection Guidance Matrix for protection shall be implemented.



Town of Farmington Fire Department
1 Monteith Drive Farmington, CT 06032

Phone: (860) 675-2322 Fax: (860) 675-2323

www.Farmington-CT.org

Face Covering/Respirator Protection Guidance Matrix

Type	Reparatory PPE Level (Min)
Interactions with the public	Cloth Mask
Building entry, Medical Facility (EMS Response)	Surgical Mask
Building entry, Medical Facility (FIRE Response)	Surgical Mask, Depending on presence of IDLH, otherwise Full SCBA
Building entry, residence/Industrial/Commercial (EMS Response) (Patient Contact Possible)	Surgical Mask
Building Entry, Residence/Industrial/Commercial (FIRE Response)	Cloth Mask, Depending on presence of IDLH, otherwise Full SCBA

Reference Documents:

- COVID -19: Guidance or use of face coverings – Director Report Memo Issued 4/13/20
- COVID 19: Guidance for use of Face coverings – FVHD Memo Issued 4/7/20
- Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings, Especially in Areas of Significant Community-Based Transmission – CDC Website