MEDIA ALERT

The Carbondale Emergency Task Force Calls on The Community to “Mask On, Carbondale”

CARBONDALE, Colo. (May 7, 2020) – The Carbondale Emergency Task Force (CETF) today unveils a campaign calling on the community to “Mask On, Carbondale” and follow directives from the State of Colorado’s Department of Public Health guidelines to wear a non-medical cloth face covering or mask while out in public. Mask On, Carbondale, is a gentle reminder to the community that science is telling us that some people may spread COVID-19 when they do not have symptoms. People may spread the disease when speaking, coughing, or sneezing -- especially in situations where a physical distance of six feet cannot be maintained.

The Task Force also reminds the community it should continue to social distance, keeping six feet of physical distance between all people at all times, and wash your hands as often as you can. Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Local artist and illustrator, Brian Colley, worked with Carbondale Mayor, Dan Richardson, to create a Carbondale-centric poster which business owners can download and print to install in store and business windows around Carbondale as a polite reminder. Business owners can also spread the word using the graphics, available in English and Spanish, via their social media channels.

FAQ’s on masks and face coverings are below.

For more information on Colorado’s Safer at Home order which expires May 26, 2020, visit: www.covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home-faq
Do I need to wear a face mask or gloves in the community to prevent COVID-19?

- Colorado is asking everyone to wear a non-medical cloth face covering while out in public. You can make or buy a covering that will cover your mouth and nose and use it whenever you are outside your house and yard.
- **Executive Order D 2020-039** orders workers at critical businesses to wear non-medical face coverings while at work and wear gloves (if gloves are provided by an employer).

When do I need to wear a mask or gloves?

- Wear your non-medical, cloth face covering whenever you go out in public to get groceries or medications or to do other essential activities. Use it when going for a walk or out to exercise, if you are away from your own yard.
- If you work at a critical business, you need to wear a medical or non-medical cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth while working, except where doing so would inhibit your health. To the extent possible, wear gloves when in contact with customers or goods if gloves are provided to workers by their employer.

Why are we being asked to wear masks?

- The main reason to wear a non-medical mask is to protect others. Science is telling us that some people may spread COVID-19 when they do not have symptoms. People may spread the disease when speaking, coughing or sneezing -- especially in situations where a physical distance of 6 feet cannot be maintained.

Shouldn’t we be wearing disposable or surgical masks?

- No. We must keep medical masks for health care providers and first responders who are exposed to heavy amounts of the virus when caring for sick people. Cloth face coverings can help the rest of us help them by potentially limiting the spread of the virus.

Where do I get a mask?

- You can make or buy your own. You can use a bandana or scarf. ColoradoMaskProject.com has resources. The CDC has a [video on making your own mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/mask-how-to.html), or Google CDC cloth masks.

How should a mask fit?

- Cloth face coverings should—
  - fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
  - be secured with ties or ear loops
  - include multiple layers of fabric
  - allow for breathing without restriction
  - be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

How do I clean and sterilize my mask?

- Wash your mask regularly with your regular laundry.
How do take off the mask?

- Be careful to not touch your eyes, nose or mouth when removing your face covering, and wash your hands right after you remove it.

Where can I find out more?

- CDC’s web page is an excellent resource.

(ENDS)

About the Carbondale Emergency Task Force

The Town of Carbondale established the Carbondale Emergency Task Force (CETF), a collective group of volunteer and organizational expertise from across the community to provide support and guidance to the town in key areas of the potential impact from the COVID-19 global pandemic public health crisis. The community is encouraged to visit the CETF webpage and the English and Spanish language CEFT Facebook pages for all public announcements and updates from the Task Force:

https://www.carbondalegov.org/government/emergency/
https://www.facebook.com/CarbondaleETF
https://www.facebook.com/Grupo-de-Trabajo-de-Emergencia-de-Carbondale

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