

Cloth face coverings required for all UC ANR on-site personnel

[CDC](#), [CDPH](#), and some county public health officials have recently issued new guidance regarding use of cloth face coverings by the general public and essential workers. [CDC recommends](#) wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures may be difficult to maintain, **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.

Based on this guidance, ANR employees who continue to come to the workplace or field work sites for essential activities (including approved research, extension, maintenance and construction work) must wear face coverings when they are working in situations where they may come in contact with other people. If you are close enough to see or hear other people (within about 20 feet) while you are away from home for work, you need to cover your nose and mouth.

Face coverings are not a substitute for maintaining social distancing and frequent handwashing. The best community and individual defense against COVID-19 is to wash our hands frequently, avoid touching our eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, avoid being around sick people, and maintaining physical distancing, especially by staying at home. However, covering your nose and mouth with a snug-fitting washable cloth can provide an additional measure of safety by forming a barrier and reinforcing physical distancing, as long as you maintain the use of other defense measures.

There are numerous do-it-yourself options for cloth face covering, including this [Fact Sheet from CDC](#) that describes three methods. Employees should be encouraged to bring their own face coverings to work and launder them at home as necessary. If supervisors need help with arranging for face coverings for their employees, please contact the ANR Environmental Health & Safety team via the [Ask EH&S survey](#).

It is also important to note that the cloth face coverings recommended are **not** medical masks or N95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders.