

Date: April 15, 2020
submitted by prisoner to Pat Anderson

To: DAI Persons in our Care

From: Makda Fessahaye, Administrator,
Division of Adult Institutions

Subject: Distribution and Care of Face
Coverings

The Department of Corrections (DOC) has been monitoring developments about coronavirus (COVID-19) by working collaboratively with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and continuously reviewing the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. The CDC has encouraged individuals to wear cloth face coverings in settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

In order to take precautions and minimize the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 in DOC correctional facilities, the DOC is issuing four (4) disposable ear loop masks through canteen for all persons in our care in the near future. As resources become available, institutions will also distribute cloth masks to all persons in our care. The ear loop masks are intended to be used on a short term basis until the DOC is able to issue cloth masks to all persons in our care, which are washable and intended for repeated long term use.

To properly care for and extend the use of a disposable ear loop mask, please store the mask in a safe and clean location between uses, dispose of the ear loop mask when wet, soiled, or damaged, wash your hands before and after touching the mask, and remove the mask when using the restroom, eating, drinking, or in your cells. If properly cared for, one disposable ear loop mask may be used to up five (5) days. To properly care for a cloth mask, please store the mask in a safe and clean location between uses and follow the institution laundry schedule to ensure regular cleaning. The issued face coverings should be rotated on a daily basis, whenever possible.

All persons in our care are encouraged to wear the issued face coverings when they are out of their cells and moving through common areas. At any time, a correctional facility may require persons in our care to wear a face covering to reduce the exposure and spread of COVID-19 in the facility. At the direction of a correctional employee, a person in our care may be asked to remove their face mask for identification purposes. Identification cards must also continue to be worn and displayed per the inmate handbook.

Please remember to practice good hygiene, thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds, cover your coughs and sneezes, avoid touching your face, maintain social distancing with at least six feet from others whenever possible, monitor and report symptoms, and follow the guidance of the dedicated healthcare staff at the facility.

Managing the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 in correctional facilities remains our number one priority as an agency. The DOC continues to work with DHS, review the CDC guidelines, and take additional steps necessary to help persons in our care and staff maintain their health and safety.

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this is good but wearing masks keeps the wearer from getting the virus. What they need is sanitizers in their cells- and the Guards to wear masks and be tested . One inmate asked the nurse why she was wearing a mask as noone else was and she said she was exposed to someone with the virus . Later in the day she changed his bandage- another staff member was wearing one and told him after he asked, the staff were ordered to come to work, even if exposed, unless they show symptoms. Everything is about inmates not spreading the virus when it is the guards who are spreading it.

