Masks and Face Coverings Required for Volunteers

A new Health Order requires everyone in San Francisco to wear face coverings when they are outside of their homes for essential needs, and requires staff and volunteers who interact with the public to cover their face while doing essential work.

Masks and face covering are required

- The order and is effective at 11:59 p.m. on April 17, 2020, but it will not be enforced until 8:00 a.m. on April 22, 2020.
- Many people already are wearing face coverings outside. However, the order does carry the force of law, and noncompliance is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

Why this is a requirement: face coverings protect others

- Covering your face is about helping others. By covering your face when you go out for essential reasons, you are being a good neighbor and community member.

You can make your own face covering

- Face coverings should cover the nose and mouth and fit securely. They can be a manufactured or homemade mask, a bandanna, scarf, towel, neck gaiter or similar item. Cloth face coverings should be cleaned frequently with soap and water.
- Face coverings do not need to be N-95 or surgical masks to help prevent the spread of the virus to others. Please refrain from buying hospital-grade masks so that those are available for health care workers and first responders.
For essential workers and volunteers

- All workers and volunteers at essential businesses, must wear a face covering when at work in most settings, when interacting with the public or co-workers.
- Workers and volunteers must wear a face covering when others are nearby or when they are in areas that the public regularly visits, including 1st floor kitchen, 2nd floor warehouse, 3rd floor reception, and meal delivery.
- Workers and volunteers giving out groceries to clients in the Grocery Centers, must wear face shields, supplied by Project Open Hand.

Face coverings are not required to be worn when by people who are:

- At home.
- In their cars alone or with members of their household.
- Outdoors, walking, hiking, bicycling, or running. However, people are recommended to have a face covering with them and readily accessible when exercising, even if they’re not wearing it at that moment.
- Children 12 years old or younger. Children age 2 and under must not wear a face covering due to the risk of suffocation. Children age 3 to 12 are not required to wear a face covering, but if they do, they should be supervised by an adult.