



## Updated COVID-19 Guidance

As you are aware, we (INDOT) are committed to ensuring the continuity of services to the citizens of Indiana while insuring we protect our employees. The following provides guidance for operations during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The most effective disease prevention strategies in the workplace still include:

- Social distancing (i.e., limiting number of employees, >6 feet separation), **maintaining social distancing must be a key tactic in planning all activities**
- Staying home if you are sick,
- Increased ventilation in close spaces (i.e., vehicles, break rooms),
- Cleaning/sanitizing surfaces and vehicles, handwashing with soap and water and not touching the face.

These control measures are designed to protect the worker from a known health hazard, the corona virus.

### Cloth Face Covering Guidelines

The new CDC guidelines recommend wearing cloth face coverings to prevent the spread of the corona virus in the community setting where social distancing is not always possible. This is a supplementary measure due to the nature of the spread of the disease as it is becoming better known and studied. These face coverings are designed solely to prevent spread of the virus from an individual who may not be exhibiting any signs or symptoms of the disease. These facial cloth coverings are not considered personal protective equipment.

Personal protective equipment in the form of N95 disposable respirators and surgical masks are in limited supply worldwide and should be reserved for those employees in the high-risk category of exposure, namely the healthcare workers. They are the only means of protecting them from exposure to positive COVID-19 patients.

INDOT has a limited supply of disposable respirators and with our employee exposure still being classified as low exposure risk by OSHA, will be practicing due diligence in the previously mentioned engineering and administrative controls to protect our employees from any exposure in the workplace. INDOT has requested that employees do not report to work if they are sick, however, if an employee wishes to wear a cloth face covering at work to prevent potential spread of the virus from them to their coworkers, INDOT will support them. **In an effort to provide that support INDOT has ordered a significant supply of reusable/washable tube style bandanas and will make those available to employees in the field when they have arrived from the supplier. Until that time, it will be the employees' responsibility to provide, wear properly, maintain and clean the face cloths if they wish wear a cloth face covering.**

**It is critical to emphasize that maintaining 6-foot social distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus.** CDC is additionally advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, **voluntary** public health measure.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.