

HAND-MADE FACEMASKS (distributed free to health care and social service providers) **100% Cotton, with flannel backing and elastic bands or fabric ties** - can be washed, sterilized, re-used



To order or to volunteer, email NWCTmaskmakers@gmail.com

March 25, 2020 – Two local groups of quilters and those who know how to sew are mobilizing to make and distribute for free hundreds of reusable face masks to help respond to COVID-19. The first supply of masks was delivered to two social service agencies on Monday, March 23. The groups, led by Jane Zatlin in Kent and Lakeville Interiors co-owners Courtney Saulnier and Ashley Marchand, are organizing volunteers to assist in all aspect of production, from sewing, to preparing and sourcing the fabric and supplies, to delivery across the region.

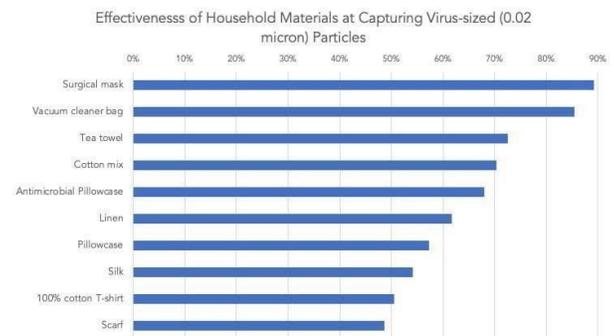
Standard disposable N-95 masks are on long back-order, due to both demand and supply chain issues. Hospitals, first responders, and social service providers in our area and across the country are reporting supply concerns.

From the CDC website: [Fabric masks are a crisis response option](#) when other supplies have been exhausted.

Health Care Provider use of homemade masks:

In settings where facemasks are not available, HCP might use homemade masks (e.g., bandana, scarf) for care of patients with COVID-19 as a last resort. However, homemade masks are not considered Personal Protection Equipment, since their capability to protect HCP is unknown. Caution should be exercised when considering this option. Homemade masks should ideally be used in combination with a face shield that covers the entire front (that extends to the chin or below) and sides of the face.

Source:



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>

Some healthcare professionals are using cotton facemasks today: “Prior to modern disposable masks, washable fabric masks were standard use for hospitals,” said Dawn Rogers, MSN, RN, FNP-C, Patient Safety & Infection Prevention Office. “We will be able to sterilize these masks and use them repeatedly as needed. While it’s less than ideal, we want to do our best to protect our staff and patients during this pandemic.”

These masks are NOT 100 percent effective in protecting against virus transmission and are not intended for direct care of a confirmed COVID-19 patient. But they are more effective than nothing and, when used in conjunction with an N-95 mask by health professionals, can extend the time a disposable mask can safely be used.

Thank you for helping all of us do our part to protect our community, including staying safe and healthy ourselves.

The CT Fifth District Face Mask Task Force 2020

Jane Zatlin, Kent; **Jason Baumgartner**, Kent; **Courtney Saulnier and Ashley Marchand**, Lakeville Interiors; **Jill Drew**, Sharon; **Lydia Moore**, Sharon