



CAPREIT

April 8, 2020

COVID-19 Cloth Face Mask Communication

Dear valued residents,

As previously communicated, CAPREIT remains committed to your health, safety and well-being. We pledged to share emerging COVID-19 information as it became available, and are doing so now:

On April 6th, 2020, Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer made the official statement that wearing non-medical masks could be used as an additional protective measure in circumstances where it may be difficult to practice social distancing, such as grocery stores and pharmacies.

You may be wondering what this means for you—we have summarized key aspects of this announcement in the sections below.

What is a non-medical mask?

A non-medical mask refers to a homemade mask made out of a t-shirt, handkerchief, bandana or similar item. In contrast, a medical mask would refer to a surgical mask or N95.

Why was this recommendation made?

The recommendation to wear non-medical masks in areas where it may be difficult to practice social distancing, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, was made after recent studies demonstrated that a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 who lack symptoms (or who may develop symptoms later) can still transmit the virus to others. This recommendation is also meant to reduce the demand on medical masks, as these should be reserved for medical professionals.



CAPREIT

Does this replace social distancing?

No, wearing a non-medical mask does not replace social distancing. You should be making all efforts to stay at home and avoid non-essential travel, in accordance with Public Health Authorities. If you must go out, stay within 6 feet of other people. Wearing a non-medical mask is an additional precaution you can take.

Do non-medical masks alone prevent the spread of COVID-19?

According to the Government of Canada, non-medical masks alone will not prevent the spread of COVID-19. You must consistently and strictly adhere to good hygiene practices and public health measures, including frequent hand washing and social distancing.

Please refer to the following link for additional information on non-medical masks:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html?topic=ex-col-faq#wm>

The COVID-19 pandemic is a rapidly-evolving situation that requires our cooperation as a community. To help slow the spread, please continue to follow the advisories posted throughout the building regarding social distancing. We will continue to provide relevant updates as they pertain to our operations and resident wellness. For more information, we encourage you to consult your provincial government COVID-19 website, along with the following resources:

Government of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>



CAPREIT

Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>