

April 8, 2020

To the Linfield community,

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) continues to study the spread and effects of the novel coronavirus – COVID-19 – across the United States. We now know that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms.

Considering this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies). Linfield College strongly recommends wearing cloth face covering in any work environment outside a private office setting, for example, when occupying space where shared equipment (printer-copiers and kitchenettes) is located. For students, this recommendation applies to the upcoming moving process, where meeting others is more likely. This practice protects Linfield community members from exposure to the virus from someone who may not know they have it. Good hand-washing practices as well as disinfecting any surfaces shared with others continue to serve as important infection control measures.

It is critical to emphasize that maintaining six-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.

If you would like to make your own cloth face covering, here is a link to [patterns for sewn and no-sew coverings](#).

Stay healthy Wildcats!

Linfield Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center