

STAFF UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT PAUL CARLSEN – April 6, 2020

Team LTC,

It has been two weeks since the Governor issued the “Safer At Home” order, yet the only constant related to the management of the pandemic is change. New [CDC guidance](#) was released last week recommending the wearing of cloth face coverings in public settings to slow the spread of the virus. It is important to emphasize that maintaining 6-feet of physical distance remains critical to slowing the spread of the virus. Handmade masks are not meant to prevent people from getting COVID-19, but meant to prevent people from touching their face and mouth. These masks also prevent spreading COVID-19 which one can have without symptoms.

I wore a mask to the grocery store yesterday for the first time. To be honest, it felt a little funny – it was hot, it scratched my skin, people looked at me weird, and everyone gave me a wide birth...but I wore it nonetheless. When I checked out I thanked the cashier for working so hard to keep everyone fed, and she responded by thanking *me* for wearing a mask! We are all doing our part, and wearing mask is a small way to have a big impact.

As an organization driven by hope and care for the community, LTC is encouraging any staff member with the means and ability to make homemade masks to do so this week (resource videos are included at the end of the email). To further encourage you to take part, our Incident Management Team (IMT) is sponsoring a Mask-Making Contest. Each contestant can select one mask to be judged by the IMT, but you must submit at least ten masks in order to be included in the competition. Masks must be dropped off at the LTC campus facilities building on Friday, April 10th between noon and 1 pm. We will quarantine these masks over the weekend and select a winner on Monday. The IMT will be judging based on:

- Perceived durability
- Perceived fit and function
- And, of course, style!
- In the event of a tie, extra credit points will be awarded to the contestant that donates the greater number of masks

The winner will receive an LTC clothing item of their choice from the LTC Bookstore.

We will provide our LTC team masks to those in our college community who are in need, and donate any remaining masks to area healthcare facilities. If you need a mask, please email LTC College Nurse Renee Bruckschen at renee.bruckschen@gotoltc.edu (also cc'ed) with your mailing address and number of masks needed.

5 DIY masks:

<https://www.sewcanshe.com/blog/5-free-diy-face-mask-tutorials-using-fabric>

Hobby Lobby Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8OyV15ua24>

Joann Fabrics Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgHrnS6n4iA&feature=youtu.be>

Make masks with elastic straps: <https://youtu.be/ueWkAuY3k6Y>

Make masks with cotton straps (no elastic needed): <https://youtu.be/hBotTRGmVjc>

Thanks, Paul