



**CITY OF MEMPHIS
SHELBY COUNTY
JOINT COVID TASK FORCE**



3/29/2020

Facial Covering or Mask Guidance for General Public

Surgical masks are proven to reduce the transmission of infection. Masks serve two functions. First not transmitting infection to others and, second, not becoming infected with an infection.

In general, masks should be used in public by those who are ill and care givers of persons with a respiratory illness.

During a pandemic with sustained community transmission, masks should also be worn by individuals who are elderly, have multiple medical problems or who have a weak immune system. At present there is no clear strong evidence for the general public to wear a mask, however given wide spread transmission of COVID-19, the general public may consider using a mask (when available) or a facial covering.

All individuals should practice hand hygiene and maintain a distance of six feet to reduce risk of infection. Masks may serve as additional protection when combined with other preventive measures.