

MASKS FOR ALBERTANS

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Principles for the Distribution of Non-Medical Face masks

IPC principles

Organizations must develop guidelines for public mask distribution by adhering to the following IPC principles:

- ❖ Store masks according to manufacturer's instructions.
- ❖ Hand hygiene means washing hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or using alcohol based hand sanitizer (minimum of 60% alcohol) for 20 seconds. When hands are visibly soiled, wash with soap and water.
- ❖ Hand hygiene **MUST** always be performed :
 - Prior to opening a new box of 50 masks
 - Whenever hands have touched anything other than the ear loops of the masks during the distribution process.
- ❖ Masks must only be handled by the ear loops - the inside/outside of the mask must never be touched by personnel distributing the masks to the public.
- ❖ Gloves must not be worn during the distribution process as this will inhibit the ability to perform hand hygiene.
- ❖ Personnel must wear non-medical face masks during the distribution process if a two meter physical cannot be maintained.
See instructions on how to put on a mask at <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>
- ❖ Ensure masks are distributed to the public in a way that prevents them from being damaged or contaminated.
 - Example-designate one person(s) to hand out masks to individuals upon entry in the facility or setting.

Discard mask if:

- ❖ It appears damaged or is damaged during handling.
- ❖ It falls or drops.
- ❖ The front/back of the mask is accidentally touched during handling.

Do not:

- ❖ Do not allow members of the public to self-select masks

Visit [alberta.ca/masks](https://www.alberta.ca/masks) for more information