

Medical Masks For Great Falls FAQ

Can I make masks?

Absolutely. Please refer to the approved pattern and tutorials here:

<https://www.gfclinic.com/approved-pattern-info-for-homemade-masks/> Any approved adaptations and the instructions for each can be found at the bottom of this page.

Will the masks I make be used?

Yes!! Masks are being donated to members of the healthcare community, including, but not limited to those at Great Falls Clinic. Any masks that don't meet their quality control standards will be passed on to patients in need or other organizations in the area.

I see other patterns and suggestions in other groups making masks, what should I do?

Please refer to the pattern that has been approved by the Great Falls Clinic, which can be found here: <https://www.gfclinic.com/approved-pattern-info-for-homemade-masks/>. If you have specific questions, please check this FAQ for answers. If you have questions that aren't answered here, please ask the group or group administrator (Samantha Shinaberger) for information/clarification. Any approved adaptations and the instructions for each can be found at the bottom page of this link: <https://www.gfclinic.com/approved-pattern-info-for-homemade-masks/>.

I can't sew, can I still contribute?

Definitely. Please drop of donated materials at GFC Hospital at 3010 15th Ave South ATTN Samantha Shinaberger. We are accepting donations of cotton fabric (or similar), plastic coated ties, pipecleaners, elastic (1/8" – 1"), cloth ties (1/8" – 1"), parachord ¼" or smaller, bias tape or 2" width fabric strips, HEPA filters of any kind, and high quality furnace filters to filter out bacteria (these will be cut down into smaller squares to fit masks).

Don't have materials?

Private message group administrator (Samantha Shinaberger) about picking up/dropping off finished masks or distributing materials.

Not leaving your house, but still want to support the effort?

Contact Samantha to be added to a supply drop off list so you can sew at home and someone will pick up the finished masks.

Can't do any of the above?

Send encouragement, and good vibes. You can mail thank-you's to the Great Falls Clinic Hospital at 3010 15th Ave South, Great Falls MT 59405 ATTN: Samantha Shinaberger. Any monetary donations mailed will be deposited to the GFC Legacy Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit and partner of the Great Falls Clinic. Their focus is to build patient housing.

Are there approved adaptations with instructions for these masks?

Yes, please refer to the website: <https://www.gfclinic.com/approved-pattern-info-for-homemade-masks/> and scroll to the bottom of the page.

What is the pocket for? Do I need to add a filter?

The pocket allows for a disposable filter (of the user's discretion) to be added/removed. You do not need to place a filter in the mask. This group is not asking for volunteers to collect filters since they are hard to find and expensive! We intend to add filters at the Great Falls Clinic after masks are received, washed and distributed.

I have everything but elastic, and I'm not able to get any, what do I do?

You can replace elastic with cloth ties or parachord (see substitutions questions above) or you can sew the masks and leave the elastic out. We have some material at the Great Falls Clinic that we can use in a pinch.

Can't find what you're looking for, or you can't pick up materials?

Sew the masks anyway, and elastic or twist ties can be added later.

I have 1/8" round elastic, will that work?

Yes!!

I have 1/4" flat elastic, will that work?

Yes!! 1/4" elastic is also being collected for 3D printed masks.

I have 3/8" or 1/2" flat elastic, will that work? If you've already made masks with 3/8" (or 1/2") elastic, they will be distributed to other organizations in our area. If you have not already made the masks, try cutting the elastic in half to reduce the size. This is more comfortable on ears.

How long should the elastic ear piece be to make a knotted loop? 12".

I'm making masks with ties instead of elastic, what length should the ties be?

The ties should be 36" long each. If you have made the masks as though you would loop elastic through the side binding, you can just feed a 36" non-elastic tie through in just the same way. If you use a double fold binding, you can use the ties as binding for the sides of the mask. Permanently attached ties are best sewn on asymmetrically, so there is a longer end from the top of the mask (to be tied at the crown of the head, above the ears) and a shorter end from the bottom of the mask (to be tied behind the head/neck, below the ears). Measuring from the bottom of the mask, leave 12" tails hanging (to be the lower tie), then sandwich the mask into the binding, sew up the sides and sew closed/finish the edges of the binding. The top tie will be roughly 20" long.

I'm making a mask with ties, do I need to finish the ends or edges of the ties?

Yes. These masks are going to be washed/dried repeatedly. Finishing all edges/ends will help prevent fraying and will increase the life of each mask. If you are using a double fold bias/binding tape as a tie, you can just sew the fold closed to prevent edges from fraying. Tuck the ends into the center and sew closed to prevent the ends from fraying.

What about the nose piece?

Several substitutions have been approved and will be updated on <https://www.gfclinic.com/approved-pattern-info-for-homemade-masks/> at the bottom of the page.

Don't have the nose piece or unable to find?

Please leave a small slit or hole open on one end so a metal piece can be added later. Flat plastic coated twist ties, pipe cleaners, and plastic coated garden wire have been approved for use, but there is some concern about the durability of these materials as the masks are repeatedly washed. Going forward, please leave a gap in the stitching of the nose piece pocket so a metal piece can be inserted/removed at a later date.

I have completed masks, now what?

Please drop off or mail completed masks at GFC Hospital 3010 15th Ave South, Great Falls, MT 59405 ATTN Samantha Shinaberger.

I have partially completed masks, but cannot finish them myself as I do not have the right materials, what do I do?

Please ask the group or group administrator (Samantha Shinaberger) if there is someone willing and able to complete the remainder of your mask and we can coordinate from there.

What if my question isn't addressed here?

Please check through the website information: <https://www.gfclinic.com/approved-pattern-info-for-homemade-masks/>. Or the GROUP TOPICS located in the Facebook Group Medical Masks for Great Falls. For any questions you can't find answers to, please ask the group or group administrator (Samantha Shinaberger).