

Personal Protective Equipment – Use and Maintenance

Downley Covid Action Group wish to provide personal protective equipment in the form of face masks and gloves to all those street reps and community volunteers who are making deliveries of shopping, medicines and any other essentials to vulnerable and self-isolating households, in order to minimise the transmission of disease-bearing aerosols and to provide some reassurance to the vulnerable.

It is important that the general public does not purchase masks that would otherwise be used by medical professionals so it will be preferable to move quickly to home-made non-surgical masks.

Masks

1. Face masks are provided in pairs packed in a sealed plastic bag. Although these have already been washed, users are advised to repeat wash if there are signs of contamination.
2. Keep good hand hygiene, before putting on and taking off a mask, as you will be touching your face more often.
3. Wearing a Mask does not give particular protection to the wearer against contracting the virus off someone who has it, coughing germs etc to allow being in closer proximity to anyone than the 2mtrs / 6feet distancing rule. They do however, reduce the chance of passing the virus to others down to 1/36 giving added protection for Eg the elderly & Vulnerable, so please continue to observe social distancing.
4. Each mask should be worn for one delivery round and then washed using soap and hot water. Drying by exposure to the sun is preferred as UV can help to deactivate virus. Internal paper filters should be replaced every time they are worn. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000hbl3/question-time-2020-16042020>
5. When worn, the pleats need to be pointing down on the outside. Makers to mark FACE SIDE on the mask.
6. When masks become worn or damaged please request a new set from DCAG who will maintain a small stock.

Gloves

If users do not have their own gloves available, DCAG can supply reusable “Marigold” style gloves and hand sanitiser.

Please ensure that gloves are sanitised between each delivery or between each house if delivering multiple times.