

Updated on 4/2/20 at 11 am  
Community Thread and 'Stillwater  
Cares' MN Facebook Page (links below)



*Led by the Facebook Group Stillwater Cares and Community Thread*

## BACKGROUND & MISSION

Thank you to the tremendous community effort to make alternative masks for the Covid-19 pandemic. This started out as a project to make 20 masks for a friend who is on the front lines of medical care and has blossomed to support the broader need across northern Washington County. We will do our very best to mobilize quickly and draw from the resources and volunteers in our area to serve our community in this time of need. We are also committed to working closely with the county to ensure we are consistent with guidance from the state and CDC, and donating the finished masks to the most critical needs first.

Please! Before reaching out to a contact working on this project, look for your question the FAQ section below.

## QUICK LINKS

<b>State of MN Dept of Health</b> Guidance on Alternative Masks / PPE	<a href="https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/masksalt.pdf">https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/masksalt.pdf</a>
<b>Community Thread MN</b> Covid 19 page	<a href="https://communitythreadmn.org/covid-19-community-response/">https://communitythreadmn.org/covid-19-community-response/</a> (Find updates to this document here)
<b>StillwaterCares FB Page (MN)</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/188705749093694/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/188705749093694/</a> (Find updates to this document under the "Files" section)
<b>Pattern for Stillwater Cares – Alternative Face Mask Kits</b> <i>Please see additional information below</i>	You Tube Video: <a href="#">Face Mask with Filter Pocket and Wire</a> (by Leah Day) Printable Document: <a href="#">Face Mask with Filter Pocket and Wire</a>

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q: How can I help?

A: Our biggest needs are supply donations and sewing masks quickly / returning them to the Area Coordinator. Recruit your friends to sew some masks!

### Q: What supplies can I donate for this project?

A: In order of priority (as of today), please donate the following items in paper bags or drop your smaller donations in to paper bags/boxes provided at the donation site (see next question about where to donate):

<b>100% cotton fabric</b>	Tight weave is most effective (quilting fabric, 100% cotton sheets, etc.) Cotton does not provide a good host for viruses and can be sanitized effectively. The material will be washed by our team prior to assembling the kits and then sanitized before going in to the bag.
<b>Pipe Cleaners</b>	These are sewn in to the top of the mask to provide a tight-fitting seal across the nose.
<b>Elastic</b> (1/4", 1/8", thin round)	We have enough elastic right now for 5,000 masks, but if you are willing to purchase a spool of elastic, please contact <a href="mailto:tara.cadenhead@gmail.com">tara.cadenhead@gmail.com</a> for details. Alternate elastic options: Elastic trimmed neatly off of fitted sheets (keep fabric casing on for comfort)
<b>Brown paper lunch bags - new</b>	Like cotton, paper and cardboard have been found to be one of the least favorite hosts of the virus. All of our kits are packaged in brown lunch bags and finished masks should be put back in the same bag and returned to the Area Coordinator.

**Q: I would like to help sew! How do I find a kit?**

**A:** Thank you! We have 5 Area Coordinators across the broader Stillwater area. Each Coordinator has 3 bins on their front porch. We have put a lot of thought in to making this as safe as possible, so please drop all donations off in a paper bag or place your smaller donations in the paper bag/box provided. Avoid plastic if possible! Kits (containing materials for 10 masks) are clearly labeled and ready to go in paper bags with high-level directions. Please refer to this document for all links to patterns, etc.

**Locations: Pick up a kit - Drop off supplies - Return completed masks to donate**

Area Coordinator	Address
Lindsay Kohn	Northern Stillwater (Millbrook) 3260 White Pine Way
Jackie Shields	Stillwater (North Hill) 508 Sycamore St W
Community Thread (M-F 9am – 1pm)	Stillwater (Near 36/Stillwater Blvd north of Target) 2300 Orleans St W
Jackie Blair	Oak Park Heights (near SAHS) 5790 Newberry Ave
Lori Gergen	West Lakeland (Near Lake Elmo Airport) 2939 Neal Ave N

**Q: Do I need to reserve a kit?**

**A:** No. We will do our best to make sure there are always a supply of kits ready to go for curb-side pick up. Please take only the number of kits you can finish and return to the same spot in 48 hours.

**Q: What is in a kit and how do I sew the masks?**

**A:** Each kit includes supplies for making 10 masks:

- Ten 9x15" pieces of fabric\*
- 140" of elastic (2 x 7" pieces per mask x 10 masks)
- 5 pipe cleaners (to be cut in half and the ends folded over to keep sharp wire from poking out)

*You will need a sewing machine, scissors, a ruler and thread – please remember to wash your hands frequently and avoid contact with face / sneezing, etc.*

The pattern we selected includes a pocket for a filter (coffee, hepa, furnace) and a wire across the nose to keep the mask tight fitting under the eyes. It is also slightly larger than other patterns you may find on the internet, ensuring full coverage and the ability to go over an N-95 mask to prolong the life of the N-95s.

You Tube Video: [Face Mask with Filter Pocket and Wire](#) (by Leah Day)

Printable Document: [Face Mask with Filter Pocket and Wire](#) (6-pages written by Leah Day)

**Q: How do we sanitize the masks before returning them to our Area Coordinator?**

**A:** You do not need to sanitize the masks once sewn. Please simply put the finished masks back in to the paper bag and return to your area coordinator. We will carefully gather and transfer all completed masks to donate to our priority facilities and organizations. Each recipient organization should follow guidance found on the State of MN Health Dept website for instructions to sanitize, distribute and maintain the masks.

**Q: Who is leading this effort? Can I reach out with questions?**

**A:** This is truly a coordinated grass-roots effort. However, we have created a fantastic team of coordinators and other roles that play critical part behind the scenes. Additionally, we are partnering with Community Thread, the Mayor of Stillwater and Washington County to ensure we are running this project the best way possible. Please follow the process above and review all FAQs to answer your questions. Only if this document does not answer your question, please email [tara.cadenhead@gmail.com](mailto:tara.cadenhead@gmail.com).

**Q: I would like to contribute a monetary donation toward this project.**

**A:** Our biggest need is for supplies that we know are in this community, and for help sewing. Please spread the word and recruit your neighbors. If we anticipate the need for monetary donations in the near future, we will update this document with that information.

**Q: I live / work outside of Washington County. How can I get involved?**

**A:** Please feel free to save this document and use as a framework in your community. We encourage you to reach out to your own county's health department to form a partnership. There are also Facebook pages available that have ideas and resources, such as 'Sew You Care.'