

## Mask Construction FAQs

### **Can masks be made out of gently-used fabric?**

We request that masks be crafted from previously unused material.

### **Can metallic fabric be used?**

We request that masks be crafted from non-metallic fabric.

### **Can fabric other than cotton or cotton flannel be used?**

We request a tightly woven cotton fabric be used as the outer layer. Quilting cotton is excellent. A softer cotton such as flannel can be used as the inner layer if desired, but quilting cotton is also an acceptable inner later. Please avoid synthetic materials as they do not breathe well.

### **Should fabric be washed before constructing the masks?**

Yes, please wash all fabric before cutting mask pieces to prevent masks from shrinking after construction.

### **Can glue be used in place of stitching?**

We request that masks be stitched, not glued.

### **What kind of elastic can be used?**

Flat elastic in 1/8", 1/4", or 3/8" widths will work with the mask pattern shown in the video link. White is preferred, but other colors are acceptable. Rounded elastic is harder to sew securely in place, as well as less comfortable to wear around the ears.

### **I can't find the appropriate size elastic. Can I use larger elastic?**

No, larger elastic would be very uncomfortable behind the ears. The good news is that wider **braided** elastic can be cut to the appropriate width using scissors or a rotary cutter. This only works with **braided** elastic, NOT **knit** elastic.

### **Can we use ties in place of elastic?**

If flat elastic is not available, fabric ties can be sewn on the mask, one tie on each of the four mask corners. Ties should be approximately 1/4" width, sewn so there are no frayed edges, and approximately 15" for each corner.

### **Any recommendations on the seam allowance?**

Our sewing community has recommended a 1/4" seam allowance.

### **Can I use a different pattern?**

The guidelines on our website specify a pattern that will create make breathable, washable, comfortable masks that will stay in place with minimal need to adjust them. Masks with pockets for filters are not requested at this time.

**Should we add in something like a twist tie or pipe cleaner (metal piece) to make the mask more secure over the nose?**

Please do not add metal pieces to masks you are donating to JPS. Adding nose bridges with twist ties or pipe cleaners is not necessary for a secure fit and can make cleaning and sanitizing the masks more difficult.