

PPE by JLP - COVID-19 Response Project

Volunteer Q&A

What is the PPE by JLP project?

There is a high need for personal protective equipment (PPE) in our communities. Beyond first responders and medical personnel, there are many departments and nonprofit organizations that provide direct support and services to our most vulnerable citizens; these groups are still required to interact closely with multiple individuals per day and are operating without any PPE at this time. After some outreach and research (led by Community Director Allison Chown), Junior League of Portland has launched *PPE by JLP* to create face masks. Initial recipients include our current community partners, Department of Human Services, and one medical center.

Is this official Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

No, it is not. Most homemade masks lack the materials and filters required to be used by medical personnel to reduce risk of particulate exposure. The *PPE by JLP* program serves to offer unofficial protection – cloth, washable face masks may reduce exposure for the common individual and may even be worn by medical personnel and first responders OVER official PPE to provide an extra layer of protection.

Do I have to be a member of Junior League to participate?

You do not! *PPE by JLP* project is a community-wide initiative. We'd love your help.

I don't sew...How can I support this effort?

- Donate funds to help us source and obtain supplies for masks. Please note: at this time, we can only accept donations by credit card (to comply with physical distancing regulations, we are unable to access our shared office space to obtain and process checks). [Click here](#) and select "COVID Response" in the drop-down menu.
- Mask-making supplies are gratefully accepted. Please complete [this questionnaire](#) to share what supplies you have to offer.
 - Have a bunch of elastic in your sewing box with nothing to add flexibility to? Yards of fabric for that project you never got around to? We'll take it!
 - Have any plastic storage boxes sitting around? We'd love to use them to deliver mask-making "kits" and have the completed masks picked up in as sterile a way as possible. Bonus if they are dishwasher-safe!
- Pick-up and delivery – pick up supply kits, deliver to those who will sew the masks, pick them up, and deliver to coordinator(s) for disbursement to organizations. Take special care to adhere to physical distancing, hygiene guidance, and other recommended precautions to flatten the curve.

Whether through donating funds or supplies, sewing masks, or (no-touch) delivery and pick-up, we are incredibly grateful for any way you can be involved! The more support we get, the faster we can expand to making masks for additional organizations that need our help.

How do I get involved by sewing masks?

Glad you asked! First, you will [click here to submit your interest](#). Here you will identify your level of experience (Master of the Machine, In-Between, or Pretty Green) and determine the number of masks you intend to make. This will help determine the type and number of kits to be delivered to you. Kits will include materials for 5 masks. You'll just need a few basic sewing items (see below). NOTE: Please do not volunteer to make masks if you are ill or if any of your household has been exposed to or is exhibiting symptoms of coronavirus.

What items do I need to start sewing masks?

You'll need a sewing machine, thread, scissors, pins, ruler, iron, and ironing board. Online tutorials are available below. If you do not have internet access, please let us know and we'll get a copy of the tutorial(s) to you.

Medical Masks:

[Video Tutorial](#)

[PDF option 1](#)

[PDF option 2](#)

Fabric Filter Masks:

[Without elastic](#)

[With elastic \(Facebook\)](#)

No-Sew Masks:

[With hair ties](#)

What's in the PPE by JLP kit?

We provide the sewing kits with pre-cut fabric and elastic (or substitute) for five masks.

I've finished my masks; now what?

Once you finish sewing the masks, place them in a plastic (Ziploc-style) bag and place into the kit box/bag that was delivered to you. Email us (covidresponse@jlpdx.org) to let us know you're done, and we'll follow up with instructions for pick-up. If you're ready to sew more, let us know and we'll get a new kit ready to replace yours!

What if I have my own fabric/supplies?

If you have cotton fabric and 1/4" elastic (or bias tape or ribbon or hair ties), you are welcome to get started making the masks. Cotton fabric (quilter's fabric) works well.

Are these masks protective?

Again, these hand-sewn masks do not prevent particulate matter, so they are merely intended to create a slight barrier and help to keep the wearer from touching his/her face. One of the patterns does allow for a filter insert, which protects more but still does not qualify these masks as a replacement for official PPE or use by medical personnel.

Do I need to sanitize the masks I sew?

The facilities we deliver the masks to will be handling the sanitation process; however, we ask that our volunteers are as careful as possible while sewing. For example: all attempts should be made to keep the sewing area sanitized, wash hands vigorously before handling materials and/or wear gloves, keep away from plants and animals, and place the masks into a Ziploc-style bag as soon as they are completed.

Please contact Community Director Allison Chown with any additional questions: community@jlpdx.org or contact our dedicated COVID-19 Response inbox at covidresponse@jlpdx.org.