

To: All Town Employees
From: Supervisor Bettez and Town Board members
Date: Feb 4nd 2021
Subject: Double Mask Wearing

In response to a potential increased spread of Covid-19, particularly its mutations, health officials have begun to recommend the wearing of two masks to better protect and help curtail the spread of the virus. To date, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has not issued guidance or recommendations on doubling up on masks. The federal agency was late to recommend mask wearing in the early stages of the virus's spread. Non-CDC health officials and communicable disease experts see a benefit to wearing two, particularly in confined and congregate settings.

With mutations of the virus determined to be considerably more contagious, we want to offer our employees surgical masks to wear, doubled up, while at work. These are available at your request at any time from your department head. Ulster County has supplied the masks both to the Village and Town free to our employees.

Wearing two masks is an employee option at this time but they're available now. To wear, a surgical mask is put on first, fitted appropriately, then is covered with a cloth mask you may have. Two surgical masks can also be worn increasing protection two fold. How to properly wear two masks can be seen in this video:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/c/embed/02ebc2d0-d278-451c-892c-d59d9dc89866>

Depending on the course the disease's spread should take, we also have a very limited quantity of N95 masks, also supplied to us free by the County. N95 masks offer the most protection against viral transmission. We will make a determination based on data supplied by Federal, State and County health officials whether to deploy the N95 masks to our employees. Department heads will be notified if it's decided to distribute the limited supply of N95 masks we have on hand. We will monitor the infection data made available on a constant basis. Additional details related to N95 distribution and wear will be provided, if it's determined to do so.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.