



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Press Release

Office of Public Affairs
VA Northern California
Health Care System

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA NorCal Health Care workers asking community to donate homemade masks

Nation's 10th largest VA health care system is embracing universal masking
to protect Veterans and staff at its 12 sites across Northern California

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — [VA Northern California Health Care System](#) (VA NorCal) will soon require its staff members to wear a mask at each its 12 health care facilities. To avoid drawing from its limited supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) used by those in direct patient care settings, VA NorCal is calling on the Northern California community to make and donate masks to help keep Veterans and VA staff safe.

“To fight the coronavirus, we need the right tools, so we’re asking the community to make and donate masks,” said VA NorCal Director David Stockwell. “While homemade masks can never replace N95 or surgical masks used by our clinical staff, they can help reduce the risk of staff who might unknowingly be carriers from infecting one another or our patients.”

MASK-MAKING INSTRUCTIONS

- Please follow this [link](#) to find instructions on how to make and donate a mask.
- Be sure to use fabric that is 100% cotton
- Please prewash all fabric with hot water, and dry on high heat to ensure pre-shrinkage.
- Please note the instructions involve the use of elastic, which can be hard to come by. As an alternative, you can use fabric ties (self-made ties, twill tape), one in each of the four corners.

DROP-OFF & DONATION INSTRUCTIONS

VA NorCal has 12 health care sites that stretch from the East Bay to the Sacramento Valley and north through Chico, Yuba City, Redding, and to the Oregon border. To coordinate the donation or drop-off of masks, please call either of the following numbers: **916-366-5372 (primary)** or **916-817-7574**.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- **The public** can learn about mask-making and donations for VA NorCal [here](#).
- **Media** seeking information about VA NorCal’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic can contact Will Martin, Chief of Public Affairs, at 916-365-1509, William.Martin6@va.gov, or via [Twitter](#).

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