On 5 April, the Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper, published a memo requiring all Active Duty, GS members and their families to wear cloth face masks while in public and in situations in which they could not guarantee 6 feet of social distancing.

WE ASK ALL PATIENTS COMING TO NMCP TO WEAR THEIR OWN FACE MASKS, AS REQUIRED BY THE SECDEF MEMO AND FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL OF YOU, OUR STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY.

In an effort to preserve our supply of medical grade masks, also as directed by the memo, NMCP CANNOT supply medical masks to patients on entry to the hospital.

Additionally, the CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings, where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission and to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

CDC recommends your cloth face covering should:
- Reach above the nose, below the chin and completely cover the mouth and nostrils.
- Fit snugly against the sides of the face.
- Be made of multiple layers of fabric that you can still breathe through.
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damaging the material or shape.

Do not buy surgical masks to use as a face covering. Those are intended for healthcare workers and first responders.

Many items you may already have in your home can be used to create face coverings. Try creating a cloth face covering using bandanas, ski masks, washable napkins, or dish towels.