



## Oregon Fire Service Coronavirus Response Team

### 07/20/2020 Information Bulletin 2020-08 Face coverings-Module of one

The Oregon Fire Service Coronavirus Response Team (OFSCRT) strives to provide clarity in these times of mass messaging and best practice recommendations for the Oregon Fire Service. The first priority is the health and safety of our first responders and the communities we serve. To serve those communities, we must have a first responder workforce that is protected and knows we care about their wellbeing. During this pandemic new guidelines and recommendations are issued and the OFSCRT will strive to provide Fire and EMS guidance that will serve as best-practice guidelines to be used within your agencies.

As of 7/15/2020, the Governor has expanded the use of face coverings to include outdoors. The change in the recommendation is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation that the public wear coverings in public settings and when around people who do not live in your household, especially when other [social distancing](#) measures are difficult to maintain. In addition, public gatherings are limited to 10 individuals or less; but does not apply to houses of worship or businesses.

The OFSCRT urges agencies to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 spread by treating each work unit (e.g., stations, offices etc.) as a "Module of One". A module of one is a group of people who work closely together, for example, in a fire station or confined to the same office, and maintaining physical distancing between them is challenging or not possible. If one member becomes ill with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID, the entire group will isolate and distance themselves, whenever possible, from others outside their module of one.

The OFSCRT, in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority, recommends that staff wear face coverings when operating or interacting outside of their module of one. When physical distancing is not an option; we would also recommend use of face coverings within the staff member's module of one.

This guidance is intended to provide a baseline for agencies to use as they draft their policies and procedures. Agencies may choose to be more stringent. This guidance does not take the place of wearing proper PPE when responding to emergency incidents.