



**American  
Red Cross**

## **FACE MASKS IN EMERGENCY SHELTERS**

**Q: Are Red Cross shelter workers required to wear face masks?**

**A:** Yes, Red Cross staff members are wearing face masks at all Red Cross service sites and shelter locations.

**Q: What if a shelter resident doesn't want to wear a mask or covering in a group shelter? For example, what if they have a medical condition that makes it difficult or impossible to wear a mask?**

**A:** Everyone is welcome at Red Cross shelters, and it is our policy that everyone wear a face covering. There may be instances where individuals are not able to wear a mask due to significant health or mental health issues. The Red Cross will follow local government mandates and will work with these individuals to make alternative arrangements for the safety and wellbeing of the individual and the entire shelter population.

**Q: Will shelter residents also be provided surgical masks?**

**A:** The Red Cross strongly encourages individuals to bring their own face coverings to group shelters or evacuation centers in alignment with guidance from the CDC for members of the public. If a shelter resident does not have a face covering, they will be provided a surgical mask.