

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

27-20

5/11/20

FSIS AVAILABILITY OF CLOTH FACE COVERINGS, DISPOSABLE MASKS, AND FACE SHIELDS

I. PURPOSE

This notice reiterates the availability, as of May 1, 2020, of cloth face coverings, disposable masks, and face shields at the Material Management Service Center (MMSC) (see Section IV for ordering details).

II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A. If establishments are not supplying inspection program personnel (IPP) with face coverings or masks, the Agency will provide a sufficient supply of cloth face coverings and disposable face masks so that IPP can choose which covering they prefer to use. As they become available, IPP are required to wear a cloth face covering or disposable facemask, in conjunction with a face shield in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Centers for Disease Control Meat and Poultry Packing Industry [Interim Guidance from CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#). Supervisors are to ensure that IPP wear face coverings or masks and face shields, after IPP receive face shields. The Agency is procuring more face shields to ensure all IPP will have them.

B. The Agency is continuing to work with vendors to procure face shields that attach to helmets. In the interim, the Agency is making available face shields with headbands, as described in section III D below. The Agency will issue another FSIS notice to notify employees when the Agency has procured face shields that attach to the helmets.

III. PROVISIONS

A. If establishments are currently providing face coverings or masks to IPP, supervisors are to continue to ensure that IPP wear them.

B. FSIS-88A--The number of face coverings per package may vary depending on how they are packaged by different suppliers and will be noted in the item description. When ordering the cloth face coverings, IPP are to note how many are in each package so they can properly calculate how many packages to order. For example, if there are five cloth face coverings in a package and there are 20 IPP in an establishment, 80 face coverings are required. IPP are to order 16 packs of face coverings (e.g., five per pack) and distribute four face coverings to each employee. These orders are to be placed using the supply order process with MMSC. IPP on patrol assignments are to change face coverings when they move between establishments to prevent cross-contamination.

C. FSIS-88--Disposable Masks: Supervisors are to order enough disposable face masks to have 2 per day for every workday over a 30-day period. IPP who have patrol assignments are to be allotted a sufficient supply of disposable face masks to be able to change masks as they move between establishments to prevent cross-contamination.

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic; All Field Employees

NOTICE EXPIRES: 6/1/21

OPI: OPPD

D. FSIS-89--Face Shields (Headband): ONLY IPP who are Food Inspectors, Consumer Safety Inspectors, or Public Health Veterinarians in a slaughter facility are authorized to order one face shield per employee. The face shields are worn using an elastic strap around the head and do not affix to helmets. This style face shield is to be worn under the helmet. The shield is to be positioned tightly against the brim of the helmet, as depicted in the photo below. All IPP are to sanitize the face shields daily or as needed. IPP on patrol assignments are to sanitize the face shield when they move between establishments to prevent cross-contamination.

E. IPP are to wear face shields in conjunction with cloth face coverings or disposable masks to provide an additional layer of protection.



IV. ORDERING SUPPLIES FROM THE MMSC

IPP are to order face covering supplies from the MMSC:

1. Online at www.bsc.usda.gov; or
2. Phone at: 1-877-576-6329.

Refer questions through supervisory channels.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel A. Edelstein".

Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development