



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management

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Sew What Lake County?!

Emergency Management Asking for Homemade Mask Donations

April 7, 2020 – Lake County Emergency Management is asking residents with a knack for sewing to help in the fight against COVID-19 by making and donating homemade facemasks for emergency services units and community members.

“We know there are many talented and generous Lake County residents out there and many folks who are anxious to do something to help out,” said BJ Kohlstedt, Lake County Emergency Manager. “This is a tangible, easy way for people to directly contribute.”

There is a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) for front-line health care workers and emergency responders nationwide. While homemade facemasks are not considered medical-grade PPE, they can help with source control for people with symptoms, extend the life of PPE, and protect workers and patients. To date, Lake County has no confirmed COVID-19 cases, but is prepared for the virus to arrive locally. According to the MN Department of Health, it is not ‘if’ COVID-19 will arrive in Lake County, but ‘when’ the virus presents locally.

Approved patterns for masks and detailed instructions from the MN Department of Health, along with links to instructional videos can be found on the Lake County COVID-19 Information Hub at www.co.lake.mn.us > Emergency Management. Completed masks can be delivered to three sites across the county by calling to make drop-off arrangements:

- Silver Bay – Lake County Offices at 99 Edison Blvd, 218-226-4443
- Two Harbors – Lake County Health & Human Services at 616 3rd Ave, 218-834-8400
- Finland Community Center, 6866 Cramer Rd, 218-353-0300

Do not to deliver masks to hospitals, care centers or clinics.

The Lake County Emergency Operations Center team is working diligently to plan for next phases and manage the current COVID-19 response. Officials and health partners including Lake County Health & Human Services, Lake View Memorial Hospital and Clinic, and Lake County Emergency Management are meeting regularly to assess needs and update plans.

The new online hub with important public information for residents to access regular updates and service availability has been created and can be accessed on the County’s website at www.co.lake.mn.us > Emergency Management or at <https://lake-county-coronavirus-response-lakecountymn.hub.arcgis.com/>. Residents are also asked to follow the Lake County Facebook page @LakeCountyMN for regular updates.



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