



Missoula City-County Health Department

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**Clarification to
July 9, 2020 Missoula City-County Health Officer Order
“Face Coverings Required During COVID-19 Pandemic”
regarding the use of enhanced face shields**

The Health Officer Order issued on July 9, 2020 regarding face covering use defines face covering as “a cloth, paper, or disposable face covering that covers the nose and the mouth and which does not have an exhalation valve. The term includes medical-grade masks, but does not include face shields.”

Face shields were not allowed as a substitute for face coverings because there was no evidence that they provided source control of the virus. Recent evidence shows that a regular face shield does not capture respiratory emissions. Rather it funnels respiratory emissions downward and out, which is why they are not effective at controlling the virus.

By deduction, this evidence suggests that a face shield with a fabric cowl to capture respiratory particles would act more like a cloth face covering. These enhanced face shields incorporate fabric on the sides and below the chin for respiratory droplet control, and can be used in place of a cloth face covering that covers only the nose and mouth.

The Health Department does not endorse or evaluate the effectiveness of any specific brand. However, the Health Department has identified certain types of enhanced face shield, such as those found at the links below or shown on the attached sheet, as acceptable in lieu of a cloth face covering or mask.



Ellen Leahy, Health Officer
Missoula City-County Health Department

9-25-20
Date

<https://rapidresponseppe.com/>
<https://making.engr.wisc.edu/badger-shield-plus/>

Enhanced Face Shields

Examples of enhanced face shields that can be used in place of a cloth face covering or mask. All of them have fabric below the chin and along the sides in a way that will catch respiratory droplets.

