

# FACEMASK

## Introduction:

Non-sterile CE-approved facemasks type II (cotton) have been delivered to the Department of Geoscience in packs of 50. They are repacked using a tweezer into clean zip-bags, 2 per bag. The bag is instantly sealed and the bags are redistributed with 10 bags in a set. The person in charge has used gloves, ethanol etc. to keep a clean workplace. Nobody else have been around while repacking, none of the bags have been touched before distributing them to users.

Facemasks does not make up for keeping your distance or keeping clean: Facemasks are used in the situations where it is difficult or impossible to avoid close contact to other persons, or situations that have a higher risk of transmitting virus.

## Storage and handling:

Facemasks are distributed in bags of 2. The package is to be considered personal: If you use facemasks no. 1, then nobody else may touch the bag, nor facemask no. 2.

Always wash your hands before and after handling facemasks. If this is not possible, use hand sanitizers.

## How to use the facemask (see next page):

1. The facemask has one stiff edge: This is to be placed upwards, on the nose. The white side should face towards your face, the blue side facing outwards
2. Put on the facemask by covering nose and mouth, only touch the elastic bands
3. When the facemask has been put on, gently push it down around your nose to secure the facemasks as close as possible to the nose (if you wear glasses they should be put on now, on top of the facemask)
4. Avoid touching the front when you take it off, only handle the facemask using the elastic bands

Replace the facemask with a new if it becomes moist. A facemask must always be discarded after max. 4 hours, or if it becomes sweaty or dirty.

See also <https://geo.au.dk/fileadmin/www.geo.au.dk/Laboratorier/Arbejdsmiljoe/Facemask-EN.pdf> and <https://www.sst.dk/da/Udgivelser/2020/Saadan-bruger-du-mundbind>

## Notes:

If the elastic bands are too large you can cross them around your ear.

According to WHO facemasks are not suitable for physical activities.

Persons with asthma, respiratory difficulties or circulation issues must use facemasks with care: Maybe you should not use them for a particular situation and you have to find an alternative solution (e.g. visor or keeping larger distance).

Some people experience discomfort (physical or psychological) when using facemasks. Sometimes nuisance or discomfort appear right away, at other times after a while: If you have difficulties breathing or feel that you are choking, you must remove the facemasks and find an alternative solution (e.g. visor, or increase the distance to other people).

## Disposal:

Facemasks are flammable waste. The facemask must be discarded in a way that other people does not touch the facemask: Keep it in a sealed bag if you are not near a regular waste bin.

If several people are using facemasks in a group (e.g. during field trips or the departmental introduction week for new students) you have to appoint a person responsible for handling the facemasks in a safe manner. This person must make sure to *bring hand sanitizer* and may only distribute facemasks in smaller quantities. After use this person must collect all facemasks in a *waste bag*, do not leave them behind. This waste bag may only be handled using *gloves*. The bag must be closed with a knot and disposed of in a suitable waste container to avoid that others touch it.

Facemasks that are unused (e.g. if the bag has never been opened and the bag is undamaged and contains clean facemasks) MUST be returned to the department, where they will be repacked.

