

Hi Everyone,

I have connected with Brandy Maslowski of the Summerland Guild and the following is an update on the masks:

I thought I would narrow our focus as we may (to the Guild or individually) start getting inundated with requests for assistance and DO NOT want our membership to feel overwhelmed!!

I am aware of Megan at Cottage Quilting's request for masks; however, if push comes to shove, I believe our Front Line Workers deserve our support and efforts because without them, we all would be pretty helpless.

Brandy is heading up a cause for Okanagan quilters to make face masks. She needs no action at this time but wanted all area guilds to know what is happening. She is in talks with the Kelowna Hosp and Penticton Hosp.

- The prototype mask (attached) they want is done and has been sent for review by the Chief of Staff. We will be advised as approval & requests are received.
- Brandy is not taking action until there is a request from an organization and they have approved the design.
- IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE that cotton masks, even with 2 layers are about 50% effective protection against COVID19.
- They are protection for infected people to use so they don't spread to others in their homes or outside.
- The hospitals may decide to use them by adding a Hepa filter in the pocket or by using them over the N95 masks to prolong use of their disposable masks. Hepa filters can be found in vacuum cleaner bags & furnace filters.
- Due to the volunteer nature of this endeavour and the donation of materials from our personal stashes, focus will be on frontline staff in health and social care jobs who must keep working rather than the general public who could stay home and we will limit the mask requests to exactly what the organization feels they need (for instance they may need 2 per person).

I've attached the pattern instructions in case quilters want to practice making one in the meantime, or a few for family members.

Quilters can see the online tutorial at [QuilteronFire](#) on Facebook or go to this link: [Face Mask with Pocket](#).

Here is the article referring to the [Cambridge study](#) on the use of different types of fabric and its effectiveness against viruses.

Brandy has also received a request for assistance from Dr. Ben Wiese at the Kelowna Skin Cancer Clinic as they are running out of protective disposable gowns. He is asking if there is any way we can help with creating some surgical gowns for them. They are definitely willing to pay for it and his cell phone number is 250-801-8611.

I have indicated to Brandy that I will pass along this request to our members but our priority would be to the NICU first and masks 2nd. However, if some of you wish to help him out, I will leave this for you to contact Brandy and/or Dr. Wiese directly. Any questions, please contact Brandy as follows:

Brandy Maslowski
Quilt Speaker, Teacher and Judge
www.quilteronfire.com
250-718-1718

I will leave this in your capable hands to decide where you would like your focus to be.

Stay safe and well!

Kindest regards,

Sharon Planche-Williams
OVQG President

Face Mask with Filter Pocket

Disclaimer: A handmade cotton facemask will not protect us as well as a proper N95 mask, but these masks can be a last resort when there are no other masks available. HEPA filter materials can be cut from a clean vacuum bag or furnace filter. This is not as effective as an N95 mask.

Materials:

14.5" x 9" cotton (batik is preferred because it is more tightly woven) but cotton is fine.

(2) 17" x 1.5" strips and (2) 14" x 1.5" strips

Plastic twist tie 6-8" folded in half or plastic-coated wire 20 gauge or stronger folded or twisted to 3-4". A folded pipe cleaner may work as well.

Instructions:

MAKE the ties by pressing the 4 strips in half lengthwise and then pressing the edges into the centre to fold and make a bias tape. FOLD one end in and stitch that edge and the length of the tie leaving the other end a raw edge. You should have 2 long ones and 2 short ones. SET ASIDE.

FOLD right sides together with the 9" raw edges at the top. MARK & SEW 2" from each side towards centre leaving a 4" filter hole. Sides are open with a fold at the bottom. PRESS seam open so the fabric on either side of the filter hole has a 1/4" fold. TURN right sides out.

SEW a top seam on one side of the seam being careful not to catch the fabric underneath. TURN BACK INSIDE OUT. MARK 1/2" from the seam on the side with no topstitch. FOLD & PRESS the tube on the marks so the filter hole is 1/2" down. This will be the filter pocket.

PLACE and PIN the ties in the 4 corners with the long ties at the top and the short ties at the bottom. This is easiest if you let them all hang out the filter pocket. Be sure they are pinned flat and the folded edge of the tie is tucked into the folded edge of the mask. Double check that your mask is inside out. STITCH the sides backstitching over the ties.

TURN right sides out and PRESS flat. With the filter hole facing you and at the top, FOLD the pleats up by grabbing at 1" and folding 1/2" up. PIN in place with pin heads in and folds are down. REPEAT 2 more times until you have 3 pleats. ADJUST as necessary until the pleated sides measure 3 inches. STITCH the sides of the mask to secure the pleats with a 1/8" topstitch backstitching over the ties. SEW with the folds, not against them.

INSERT the twist tie in the small top fold above the filter pocket. STITCH to enclose it 2" from the sides and 4" along the wire with a zipper foot being careful to leave the pocket open.

To make a dart below the chin FOLD the fabric mask front sides together. Draw a one-inch diagonal line at a 90 degree angle on the bottom fold. Stitch on the line and trim with soft corners leaving the raw edges inside.