

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Gresser, Suzanne**

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**Subject:** FW: MaineCDC-compliant protective face coverings

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**From:** Bogart, Molly <[Molly.Bogart@maine.gov](mailto:Molly.Bogart@maine.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 12:05 PM  
**To:** Ryan Fecteau; Rochelo, Megan  
**Cc:** Beausang, Bethany  
**Subject:** FW: MaineCDC-compliant protective face coverings

**This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.**

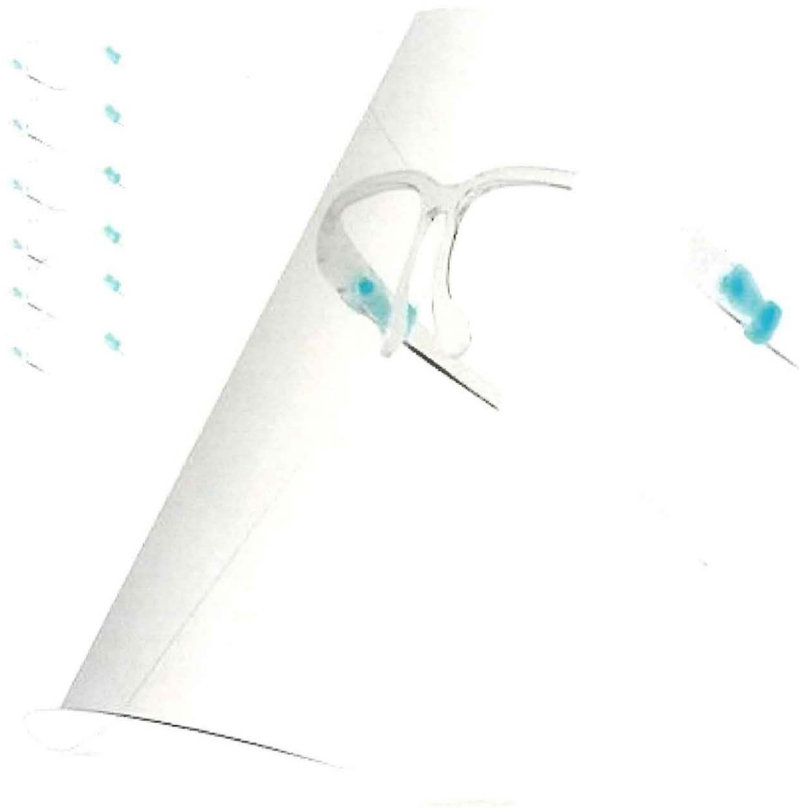
Hi Speaker Fecteau and Megan,

I appreciate your request to have Maine CDC respond to specific types of face shields. I am sure you saw our response to Director Gresser earlier in the day, and I know the Speaker is looking for more clarity. Because there are so many different types of shields, we are unable to give the legislature, say, 2 models that are acceptable for use, at the exclusion of all others. That is a decision that we recommend the legislature make for itself with the information we've provided, which I am forwarding below.

The important criteria for a shield continue to be: wrap around the side of the face, extend below the chin.

The chin cups modeled in the photos sent by Suzanne and at the links below are determined to not be recommended because they do not meet the criteria above.

Comparatively, this image that was shared by Suzanne would seem to meet the criteria, as it covers the face and extends both below the chin and around the face:



The value in a face covering is that it stops the spread of those respiratory droplets with the material and a snug fit around the face. When you remove the snug fit aspect by choosing a face shield, you lose a level of protection. It is important to ensure appropriate coverage on all sides of the mouth and nose. This is why the small partial shields are problematic.

As a reminder, [US CDC recommends against using face shields](#). They are seen as an acceptable alternative if someone is unable to wear a face covering.

I hope this provides some more assistance as you make decisions for coverings and shields in the legislature.

Best,

m

Molly Bogart, Director of Government Relations

Department of Health and Human Services

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Pronouns: she/her/hers



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 Please consider the environmental impact of printing this email.

**From:** Long, Robert <[Robert.Long@maine.gov](mailto:Robert.Long@maine.gov)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 23, 2021 8:31 AM  
**To:** Gresser, Suzanne <[suzanne.gresser@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:suzanne.gresser@legislature.maine.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bogart, Molly <[Molly.Bogart@maine.gov](mailto:Molly.Bogart@maine.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: MaineCDC-compliant protective face coverings

Good morning,

This comes from our infection control team:

Face coverings are still preferred over face shields for source control. Below is federal CDC guidance pertaining to masks that address communication challenges with face coverings and a description of a face shield, for those who may not be able to wear a mask. Federal CDC guidance can be found at this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

## Clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel

Clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel are an alternative type of mask for people who interact with

- People who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Young children or students learning to read
- Students learning a new language
- People with disabilities
- People who need to see the proper shape of the mouth for making appropriate vowel sounds, e.g., in singing



(different picture added here for clarity of concept)

## If you must wear a face shield instead of a mask:

- Choose a face shield that wraps around the sides of your face and extends below your chin or a hooded face shield. This is based on the limited available data that suggest these types of face shields are better at preventing spray of respiratory droplets.
- [Wash your hands](#) after removing the face shield. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing it.
- Clean and disinfect reusable face shields according to the manufacturer's instructions or by following [CDC face shield cleaning instructions](#). If you use a disposable face shield, wear it once and throw it away according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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## Maine CDC review of 'chin shield' type product...

The 'chin shield' type of product, such as one found at this link: <https://imall.com/product/10pcs-Hygiene-Safety-Face-Shield-Mouth-Nose-Visor-Permanent-Anti-Fog-Catering-Food-Hotel-Plastic-Kitchen-Restaurant-Tools/Home-Improvement-Furniture-Apparel-Accessories-Electronic-Components-Supplies-Office-School-Garden-Dining-Bar/aliexpress.com/1005001349989885/144-83337525/en>

- Does not wrap around the sides of the face, nor extends below the chin
- Moves with the chin and may no longer cover the nose as a person is talking
- Has a small surface area and is quite open on all sides, significantly limiting the functionality to stop or redirect respiratory secretions
- Offers very minimal protection to the wearer as someone else's respiratory secretions could easily move around the chin shield and reach the mucous membranes of the mouth and nose

Conclusion: Would NOT recommend this type of product for COVID-19 source control.

In the [General Information](#) section of the Maine CDC webpage on COVID-19, we have a tab with tip sheets on face coverings and other personal protective equipment. For convenience, here are links to the documents there related to face coverings:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/documents/InformationOnFaceClothCoverings.pdf>

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/documents/Which-Mask.pdf>

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/documents/cloth-face-covering-do-dont.pdf>

For more general information, this U.S. CDC page, which has links or reference to more than two dozen research studies, is helpful:

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html#:~:text=Everyone%20%20years%20of%20age,a%20on%2Dhealthcare%20setting}](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html#:~:text=Everyone%20%20years%20of%20age,a%20on%2Dhealthcare%20setting}.).

Respectfully,

Robert Long

Maine CDC

**From:** Gresser, Suzanne <[suzanne.gresser@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:suzanne.gresser@legislature.maine.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2021 9:21 PM  
**To:** Long, Robert <[Robert.Long@maine.gov](mailto:Robert.Long@maine.gov)>  
**Subject:** MaineCDC-compliant protective face coverings

Good evening, Mr. Long-

As you may know, the Legislative Council is reviewing the Legislature's COVID-19 Prevention Policy; specifically, Council is examining which specific types of face coverings should be considered acceptable protective face coverings for the purposes of COVID-19 prevention.

The Council's Personnel Committee met yesterday, and it was suggested that the policy be amended to define acceptable face coverings as those that comply with guidelines of the Maine CDC.

Does the Maine CDC have a list or description of face coverings that comply with its guidelines for COVID-19 prevention and protection purposes?

Thank you in advance for your help!

Suzanne

Suzanne Gresser

Executive Director

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