

#MasksNOWIllinois

The Masks Now Coalition

www.masksnow.org



#MasksNow
@MasksNowIL



Dear Volunteers,

Hello! My name is Emma Davenport, and I am the Illinois State Lead for a national organization called #MasksNow. We are a grassroots movement of sewists and crafters who are making masks for our frontline workers and at-risk community members. We have sewn and distributed over 7,000 cloth face masks - but the need is still on the rise. Over the past two months, we have accumulated requests that total 33,000 masks! So, we need your help.

Dust off your sewing machine and grab your scissors! Every stitch that you make flattens the curve that much more for Illinois, helping to protect our families, friends, and communities. Can't sew? No Problem! We have a variety of other volunteer opportunities that would work for you! Whether it is cutting fabric or collecting donations, every little bit counts.

If you ever have any questions, I am here for you! You can email me at masksnowil@gmail.com or call/text me at (847)-496-0390. Be sure to follow us on Instagram and Twitter, @MasksNowIL, to keep up to date with the latest stats and announcements. Thank you so much for joining us to tackle this massive need!

Sincerely,

Emma Davenport
Illinois State Lead



#MasksNOWIllinois

The Masks Now Coalition

About Us - What is #MasksNowIllinois?

We are a grassroots movement of sewists and crafters of all ages who are sewing masks for healthcare workers and at-risk community members around Illinois. Since our group was created in the end of march, we have received requests from senior care centers, healthcare facilities, disabled communities and many more. These requests have totaled to over 33,000 masks! We have sewn and distributed 7,000 in the past two months, but we need your help to get more masks out there.

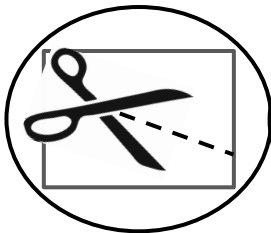
Cool! I want to help. Where do I start?

Thank you so much for joining the movement! We need all hands on deck to make these masks. To start, visit masksnow.org and register as a volunteer (with parent approval) to receive personalized information for your region and to keep up to date with our weekly stats and accomplishments. You can also join our [Facebook Group](#) and be sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram @MasksNowIL to see photos, stories and announcements!

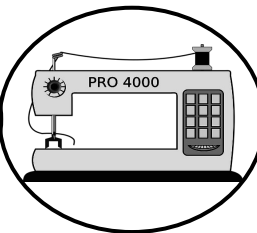
I'm signed up - now what?

Pick the role that fits you best and reach out to Emma Davenport, your Illinois State Lead. You can reach her at masksnowil@gmail.com or call/text her at (847)-496-0390. She will do her best to help you with whatever you need!

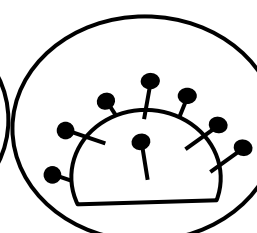
Here is the path of a mask. Think about how you can engage!



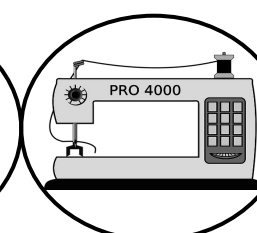
Fabric is
Cut to the
Right Size



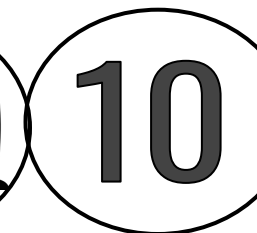
Fabric is
Hemmed and
Straps are
Sewn



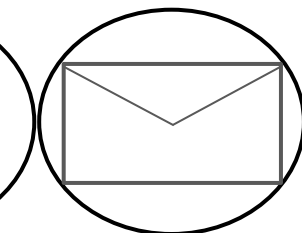
Assemble
Fabric
Pieces



Fabric is
Sewn into
Masks



Masks are
Bundled
(10 in each)



Masks are
Dropped
Off for
Delivery



#MasksNOWIllinois

The Masks Now Coalition

Non-Sewing Volunteer Contributions

If you know how to sew, we really need you to sew! If you do not know how to sew, that is okay too - there are lots of other ways you can help. Here are just a few ideas, but feel free to reach out to Emma if you have more!

- Cut fabric to size for a sewist (see pattern)
- Pin fabric for a sewist (see pattern)
- Recruit other volunteers (especially if you know people who sew)
- Help distribute masks
- Raise money for our [GoFundMe](#) to buy fabric and cover shipping costs
- Reach out to friends, families and neighbors to get your community involved
- Ask friends, family and neighbors for cotton or cotton-polyester fabric
- We are flexible! Just let Emma know your ideas and she can help you figure out a way to contribute.

Sewing Contributions

If you can sew or are willing to learn, this is a great project for you! Sewing masks are fairly simple and teach you a variety of skills. If you do not know already, you will learn how to hem fabric, sew on the wrong side of the fabric, make a pocket and pleats. See the following pages for the pattern and tips!



#MasksNOWIllinois

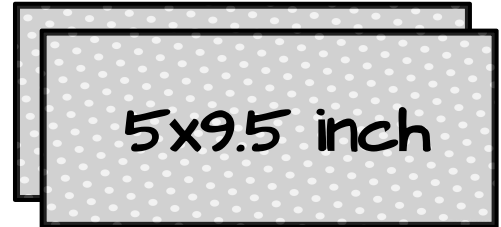
The Masks Now Coalition

Step by step Cloth Face Mask Tutorial

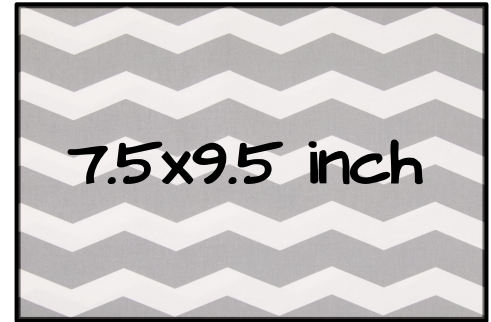
This pattern is for personal use only. Please do not use for profit.

Materials:

- (2) 5 x 9.5 inch (tightly woven cotton fabric)
- (1) 7.5 x 9.5 inch (tightly woven cotton fabric)
- 1/2 inch bias tape, length
- Machine, thread, and other necessary sewing supplies.



5x9.5 inch



7.5x9.5 inch

Use lightest fabric on the outside! (7.5x9.5)

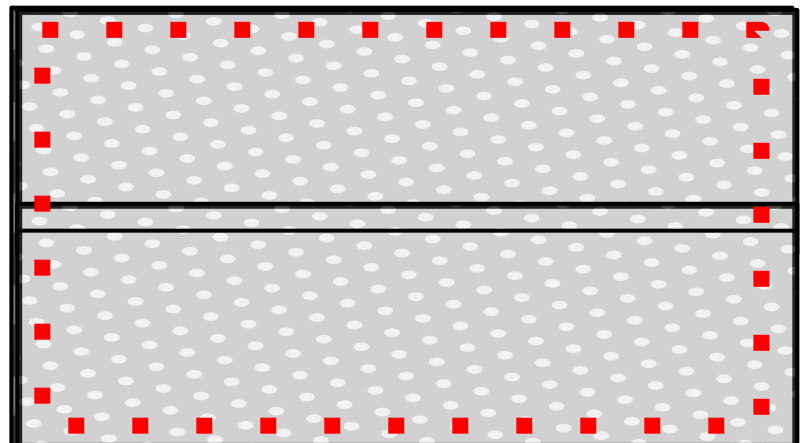
The Mask

1. Iron about 1/2 inch fold along the long side of the 5x9.5 inch fabric. Do the same for both pieces.

1/2 inch



2. With right sides facing each other, match the unfinished edges of the 5 x 9.5 inch fabric to the 7.5 x 9.5 fabric. The finished edges should overlap, creating the filter pocket. Sew along the outside edges.



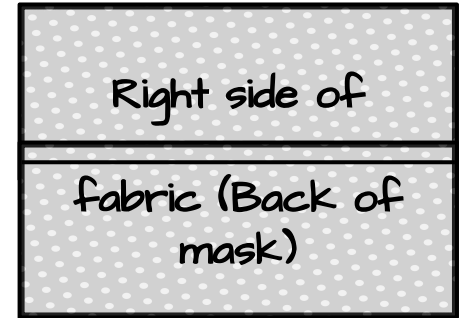
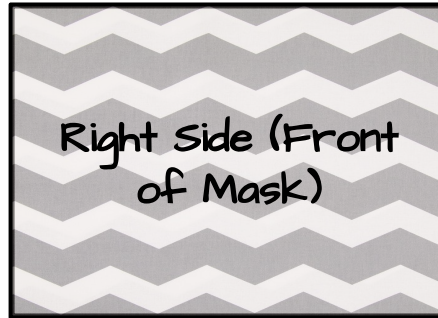


#MasksNOWIllinois

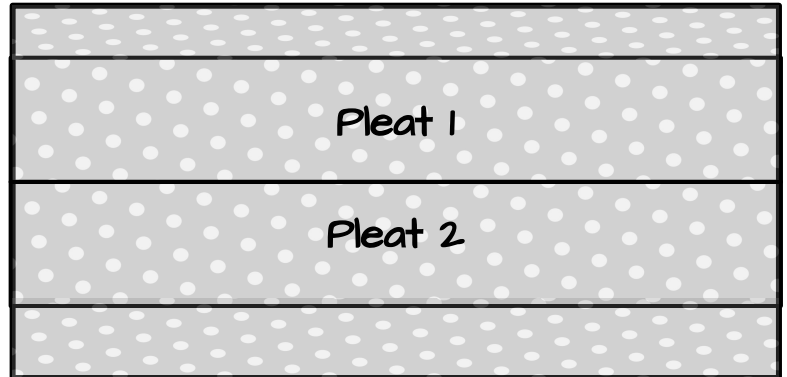
The Masks Now Coalition

Step by step Cloth Face Mask Tutorial

3. Flip the 'pillow case' right side out and iron.

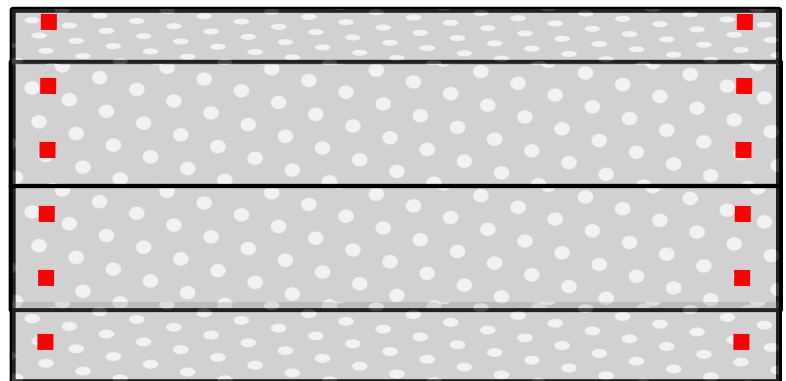


4. Make two or three pleats in the 'pillowcase' ironing and pinning as needed.
TIP Start by making a pleat where the pocket in the back is, so that the pleat hides the opening.*



TIP When pleating, pinch the fabric, and fold it upwards.*

5. Sew the pleats in place on either side.
Do this twice to ensure security..



The mask portion is complete! See the following page for options on how to attach the bias tape for fabric ties.



#MasksNOWIllinois

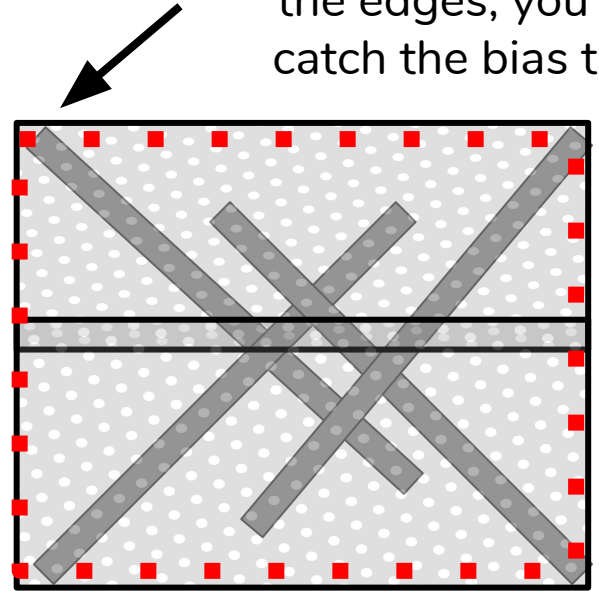
The Masks Now Coalition

Step by step Cloth Face Mask Tutorial

Straps Option 1

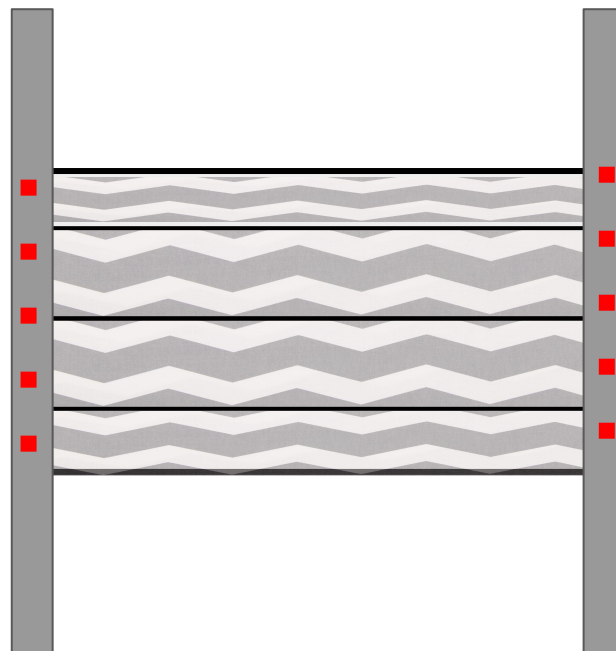
2a. Cut the 1/2 inch bias tape or cotton twill ties into lengths of 20 inches. 4 of them are needed. Before sewing the fabric pieces into place, pin the bias tape in between the layers at the corners, and then sew. *TIP* Keep the excess bias tape on the inside of the forming pillowcase so that the straps are on the outside after turning the case right side out.

When you sew around the edges, you will catch the bias tape



Straps Option 2

6. Using a 43 inch piece of bias tape, sew it onto the edge of the pleating on the front side of the mask. Do for both sides.





#MasksNOWIllinois

The Masks Now Coalition

Mask Making Tips and Tricks

Fabric

- Research shows that the best homemade mask is comprised of **two or more layers of**
- If you are having trouble finding an open fabric store, rural Walmarts have a fantastic fabric section!
- Some hospitals have requested **light colored fabric on the outside of the mask** to see when it is dirty

Pattern

- Hospitals and sewers have preferred masks with a pocket for a filter (like the pattern provided)

Assembly

- Put ties in while you are sewing around the edge of the fabric in the corners - it makes the assembly quicker and makes the mask fit better.
- This is a great family project! Get your family into an mask-producing assembly line and you are off to the races!

Ties & Nose Pieces

- Many patterns show elastic, but hospital feedback indicates **that elastic is uncomfortable to wear and does not hold up to sanitation practices.**
- **FABRIC TIES ARE PREFERRED** and do not have to be made of cotton fabric.
- **Store bought binding tape is acceptable** (and way easier than making your own). You can even use cotton twill tape.
- **DO NOT use ribbon**, it will not withstand sanitation and repeated use.
- Leaving a spot open for inserting nose pieces in the top seam is acceptable, but **providing a nose piece is controversial for sanitation reasons.**

Stuck? Watch [these videos!](#)



#MasksNOWIllinois

The Masks Now Coalition

Masks are done! Now what?

Below is a list of locations where you can drop off. Reach out to Emma, your state lead, to get the specific address when you are ready to drop off. If none of these are near you, we can provide a prepaid shipping label for your masks, or arrange a drop off location near you:

- Albany Park (Chicago)
- Arlington Heights
- Buffalo Grove
- Des Plaines
- Gilberts
- Hanover Park
- Naperville
- Northbrook
- Oak Park
- Round Lake Beach
- St. Charles
- Sycamore
- West Town (Chicago)
- Woodstock

Drop Off Procedures:

Please package masks so that there are nine in a stack and the tenth is wrapped around and tied around (like in the image below). Put bundles in a bag or box with a label or note indicating how many are in the container. Excess masks can be put on the top.



Q & A

Q: Where are these masks going?

A: The masks you make are going to senior care facilities, disabled living communities, law enforcement agencies, healthcare facilities and food pantries all over Illinois.

Q: Does #MasksNow volunteer work qualify for community service hours?

A: Yes! Log your hours in the form (attached) and email it to masksnowil@gmail.com for approval and signature.

Q: I want to help, but I have no materials. What should I do?

A: You can always ask neighbors, relatives and friends for leftover cotton fabric or used, clean bedsheets to start. If these aren't an option, reach out to Emma and she would be more than happy to get you the materials you need!

When in doubt, shoot and email or text to Emma!

