

Dear Quogue residents,

Per an order issued by the Governor, effective tonight, April 15, at 8:00 pm, employees of all essential business or entities who are present in the workplace shall be provided and shall wear face coverings when in direct contact with customers or members of the public. Businesses must provide, at their expense, face coverings for their employees. Per guidance issued by the NY Department of Health, face coverings include, but are not limited to, cloth (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), surgical masks, N-95 respirators, and face shields. Of course, surgical masks, N-95 respirators and face shields continue to be in short supply and their use should be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.

Apart from this legal requirement, the Department of Health has recommended that members of the general public wear cloth face coverings in public settings, especially where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies). According to Governor Cuomo's press conference this morning, this recommendation will soon become mandatory. Masks are not a substitute for all of the other preventive measures with which we all have become familiar—social distancing, frequent hand washing, avoiding touching our faces, covering our coughs and sneezes and staying home whenever possible. It looks like we are doing a pretty good job in Quogue of masking ourselves in public places. I see a lot of people doing that. I would compliment them by name, but for the most part I cannot tell who they are. Eventually, however, we will get to know each other by the masks we wear.

Here is a link to the CDC website that provides instructions on how to make a mask, including for the non-sewers among us those that do not require a stitch: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Stay safe, everyone.