



April 8, 2020

FROM: Tim Knewitz, Chief Financial Officer

TO: All Argonne Contractors

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update – CDC Guidance Regarding Face Coverings

To protect the health and wellbeing of the Argonne National Laboratory community, we continue to assess and adjust our response to the COVID-19/coronavirus outbreak.

Information from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to guide our recommendations and actions. The CDC recently updated its guidance to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

With a focus on minimizing the spread of COVID-19, we are requesting that onsite staff and contractors follow the new CDC recommendation and bring a cloth face covering to work if they anticipate being near others. Instructions on how to create one with common household items can be found on the CDC website. If your employees use a NIOSH-approved particulate filtering facepiece respirator (such as an N95), as a face covering voluntarily, please review with them Appendix D of 29 CFR 1910.134: (Mandatory) Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard.

The Lab has also taken other actions to enhance safety, including reducing onsite staffing levels in accordance with the Illinois “stay at home” executive order. The "[Graded Approach to Protecting Workers from COVID-19](#)" guidance was directed to Lab employees, but contractors may find the tips provided in it useful as well. We will lift these restrictions when it is safe to do so.

Argonne will continue to monitor new information and provide updates. We thank you for your attention and encourage you to visit [our coronavirus information webpage](#) for more information on how Argonne is managing COVID-19 impacts.

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