

## Protecting Ohio's Workforce – We've Got You Covered

### Frequently Asked Questions



- **Why is BWC sending face coverings to employers?**

We want employers to have these basic protective items to supplement other measures they are taking to slow the spread of the coronavirus and safely restart their businesses. They don't guarantee protection, but health experts indicate they lessen the risk for carriers to transmit the virus to others.

- **What employers are eligible for these face coverings?**

We are targeting Ohio private and public employers in good standing who have payroll and pay premiums into the State Insurance Fund, with the exception of state agencies and state universities.

- **I need these items now. Should I hold off purchasing face coverings until I receive my shipment?**

No. Initial shipments will be made to smaller employers and gradually increase to our larger employers. This could take weeks. Our shipment is intended to support and enhance, not replace, any workplace safety and health efforts you already have in place.

- **When will I receive my shipment?**

We began shipping face coverings on Wednesday, May 20, via United Parcel Service (UPS) to employers' physical locations, and we will continue shipments for several weeks. We can track shipments to some extent, but we cannot say the exact date your package will arrive.

- **Can I order more?**

We are not taking orders for additional face coverings, but we will continue to assess the needs of our employer community and workforce and how we can help throughout this pandemic.

- **We have plenty of face coverings, can we return these?**

Please do not return these items to BWC. We encourage you to share extras with local organizations, family members, and customers. Contact your local health department or emergency management agency to find out who is in need.

- **Will I be billed for these items or see my premium go up as a result?**

No, they are funded through existing dollars in our FY 2020 budget. This will not impact your premium.

- **Are these the N95 masks I hear so much about?**

No, these are simple, non-medical-grade face coverings suitable for in-home use and at most work and public places to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

- **Are these face coverings reusable?**

These cotton-fiber coverings can be washed and reused. The amount of reuse will depend on the wearer's industry type and work area. For other tips, please visit [Cloth Face Coverings \(Masks\) COVID-19 Checklist](#) at the Ohio Department of Health's website.

- **Where are these face coverings manufactured?**

While we work to secure manufacturers here in Ohio, we are procuring these items from a variety of sources.

- **Are there other types of protective equipment you supply?**

Not at this time, but additional items may be considered in the future.

- **As a self-insured employer (SI), will I receive a shipment of face coverings?**

At this time, these items are being supplied to private and public employers who have payroll and pay premium to the State Insurance Fund only. SI's and client employers of SI Professional Employer Organizations will not receive face coverings.

For more tips on preventing the spread of COVID-19, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

For questions about BWC as it relates to COVID-19, please visit our COVID-19 Information page at [bwc.ohio.gov](https://bwc.ohio.gov) or email us at [BWCCOVID19@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:BWCCOVID19@bwc.state.oh.us).