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# PUBLIC HEALTH ETHICS - PHIL 441

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AUTUMN 2021

Instructor: Carina Fourie

To contact me electronically, send me a **message on Canvas via the Inbox**  
Office hours (Zoom): Tue 12.00-12.30pm; Fri 9.30-11am; or by appointment

## Class Times:

In-Person Class Meeting: Thu 10.30am-12.20pm

AND

EITHER Zoom Meeting: Tue 11am-12.00pm, OR Asynchronous Online Option

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## WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?

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We will investigate public health ethics as a distinctive field of applied ethics. In doing so we will assess significant concepts in public health policy and practice, such as 'population', 'health' and 'equity', and their ethical implications. In conjunction, we will attempt to answer central ethical questions and to assess real-life public health programs and policies. For example, we will examine applied problems associated with pandemics (including the one we are currently living through!), racial disparities in health, ableism, HIV-AIDS, and global health and epistemic injustice.

My central goals for this seminar are that you should come away with the following:

- Content knowledge of key concepts and debates that are central to the ethics of public health. (*Achieved through written assignments; quizzes*)
- Skills of conceptual analysis relevant for disembedding and assessing assumptions that underpin popular, scientific and philosophical debate about public health. (*Achieved through written assignments; participation; quizzes*)
- Skills of conceptual analysis relevant for assessing the ethics of public health policies, programs and practices. (*Achieved through written assignments; participation*)
- Enhanced philosophical reading, analysis, argumentation and writing skills. (*Achieved through written assignments; participation*)

## COVID-19 RESOURCES

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To keep everyone in the class safe and to diminish any anxiety associated with COVID-19, we will implement the following protocols and guidelines:

- [If you are sick with any illness](#), you must stay home, even if you are fully vaccinated. Missing the in-person class will not be penalized, and information on the class you missed will be online.
- If you experience COVID-19 symptoms, even if you are fully vaccinated, get tested and stay home until you receive your test result. If you test positive, notify the UW COVID-19 Response and Prevention Team at [covidehc@uw.edu](mailto:covidehc@uw.edu) or 206.616.3344. You can enroll for free testing by clicking on this [link](#) for student COVID resources and then scrolling down to the link for “Husky Coronavirus Testing”.
- Wear a mask at all times in our classroom. Masks should be well-fitted and cover your nose and mouth at all times (see [Face Coverings and Social Distancing in the Classroom during COVID](#), pages 9-10 of this syllabus for more information). The only exception is taking quick sips of water/hydrating liquid (see instructions below, on eating and drinking in the classroom). For more on face covering policies, see this [PDF](#).
- If you do not have a mask, you can get one from a [Healthy Huskies Vending Machine](#).
- If you do not have a mask or you do not use your mask properly, you will have to leave the class. Refusing to wear a mask is a violation of the Student Conduct Code.
- Please keep your distance from other students (as much as is possible).
- [Eating and drinking in the classroom is not permitted](#). The only exception is taking quick sips of liquid such as water. To do so, please pull your mask down, drink and then immediately replace your mask.
- Keep in mind that some people may be unvaccinated due to medical reasons, or may have an unvaccinated person at home (I have a toddler at home who can’t be vaccinated yet), and thus may be particularly cautious.
- Please take care of yourself as much as possible – do whatever you can to help reduce stress. Remember that UW provides resources for well-being at [The Whole U](#). This includes tips for healthy eating and exercise routines as well as links to guided meditations and yoga classes. And Hall Health offers resources for [Mental Health](#).
- For further resources on COVID-19 including UW’s COVID policies [click here](#).
- If you have any questions or concerns about the protocols/guidance, please let Carina know.

We are all going through this together – let us help and support each other as best we can!

## COURSE MATERIALS AND TOPICS: AT A GLANCE

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The course will include the following: pre-recorded lectures; an in-person discussion (Thu); an online Zoom discussion (Tue) OR an asynchronous discussion board option. Materials such as recordings of lectures, readings, discussion boards and assignments are all available on **Canvas**. As this a course in philosophy, we will read many philosophical texts, especially those in ethics. As public health ethics requires interdisciplinary collaboration, additionally we will read texts from a range of other disciplines including epidemiology, global health, medical sociology and political theory.

Date	Topic
Thu. Sep. 29	<b>Introduction</b>
Week, Oct. 4	<b>What is Health Equity?</b> Readings by: Sarah Marchand et al.; James Wilson
Week, Oct. 11	<b>Disabilities, Health &amp; Disease</b> Readings by: Sean Aas and David Wasserman; Daniel Brock
Week, Oct. 18	<b>Global Health, Power &amp; Epistemic Injustice</b> Readings by: Thirusha Naidu; Joanna Crane; Himani Bhakuni and Seye Abimbola
Week, Oct. 25	<b>Individuals &amp; Populations</b> Readings by: Keisha Ray; Geoffrey Rose; Katherine Frohlich and Louise Potvin
Week, Nov. 1 Week, Nov. 8 Week, Nov. 15	<b>Structural Injustice &amp; COVID-19</b> Readings by: Debra DeBruin et al.; Marcel Verweij; Katie Savin and Laura Guidry-Grimes; Eduardo Bonilla-Silva; Hui Yun Chan; Kristin Voigt and Gry Wester; and more
Week, Nov. 22 Week, Nov. 29 Week, Dec. 6	<b>HIV-AIDS &amp; the Human Right to Health</b> Readings by: Kristin Hessler; Jonathan Wolff; Jonny Steinberg; Daniel Wikler

## A BREAKDOWN OF WEEKLY TASKS

FOR Tuesday class:	Work through the preparation worksheets; Read the required texts; Watch the lecture/s; Prepare for the discussion questions (Material available under the relevant Module on Canvas).
ON Tuesdays:	
11am-12pm:	Class (Zoom) <b>[Or asynchronous alternative]</b>
12-12.30pm:	Office hours (Zoom; Voluntary)
11.59pm:	(Synchronous) Self-assessment for Tue. Participation due OR (Asynchronous) Discussion Board answers due
FOR Thursday class:	Work through the preparation worksheets; Read the required texts; Watch the lecture/s; Prepare for the class poll and discussion questions (Material available under the relevant Module on Canvas).
ON Thursdays:	
10.30am-12pm:	In person (ECE 031) <b><i>If you are sick with any illness, you must stay home, even if you are fully vaccinated. A recording of the class discussion will be available for you on Canvas.</i></b>
ON Fridays:	
9.30am-11am:	Office hours (Zoom; Voluntary)
11.59pm:	Quizzes/Written Assignments due (Asynchronous) Discussion Board comments due

All quizzes and written assignments, except those due in finals week, will be due on a Friday at 11.59pm. See Canvas "Assignments" for details of the deadlines.

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## HOW WILL GRADING WORK?

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There are **undergraduate and graduate streams** for this course.

### Undergraduates:

The final grade for undergraduates will be based on points out of 100, determined in the following way:

- **Written assignments: 70 points:**
  - Exposition: 20 (two submission opportunities; submit a minimum of 1; best of 2)
  - Policy assessment: 20 (two submission opportunities; submit a minimum of 1; best of 2)
  - Final Argumentative Essay: 30 points (compulsory to pass; can be revised if the initial grade is less than 80%)
- **Quizzes: 15 points**
- **Participation Self-Assessment OR Asynchronous Option: 15 points**

For more detail, please read the document on assignments under 'Resources - Essentials' in the Modules section of Canvas, and see 'Assignments' on Canvas.

### Graduates:

Your final grade will be based on points out of 100, determined in the following way:

- **Reading Responses & Comments: 15 points** (credit or no credit). You will submit 5 reading responses during the quarter to your choice of 10 required readings (a list will be provided), and 5 sets of comments to peer reading responses.
- **Summary of draft paper and peer reviews: 20 points** (credit or no credit).
- **Final paper: 65 points.**

For more detail, see 'Assignments' on Canvas and contact Carina with questions.

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## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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All students are expected to practice academic honesty, which includes not plagiarizing. Academic dishonesty will lead to grade penalization and may lead to disciplinary action. Please also see the Department of Philosophy's policies on 'academic misconduct' below.

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### NOTICE TO STUDENTS - USE OF PLAGIARISM DETECTION SOFTWARE

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Notice: The University has a license agreement with SimCheck, an educational tool that helps prevent or identify plagiarism from Internet resources. I am using this service in this class by requiring that assignments are submitted electronically to be checked by SimCheck. The SimCheck Report will indicate the amount of original text in your work and whether all material that you quoted, paraphrased, summarized, or used from another source is appropriately referenced.

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## RESOURCES & ADDITIONAL POLICIES

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### ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

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Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but are not limited to: mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 (Voice & Relay) or [uwdrs@uw.edu](mailto:uwdrs@uw.edu) or [disability.uw.edu](http://disability.uw.edu). DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law

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### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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For resources on health and well-being, please contact the UW [Wellness Center](#) or [Hall Health](#). For UW resources about COVID-19, you can click [here](#).

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### UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

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Resources are available for you [here](#).

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### HELP WITH TECHNOLOGY

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Consider these resources:

UW loans equipment such as laptops to students and is willing to ship it out if you cannot pick it up from campus: <https://www.facebook.com/uwstlp>.

For any technical issues with Canvas or Zoom, please consult UW IT's website, email them on [help@uw.edu](mailto:help@uw.edu), or call them 206-221-5000.

If you have ongoing challenges with technology which are interfering with your ability to meet course requirements, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work out possible alternatives.

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## INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

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*University of Washington, Department of Philosophy*

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### POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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#### ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

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Academic misconduct, including plagiarism, is prohibited by the Student Conduct Code for the University of Washington and is taken very seriously by the UW. According to the student conduct code, academic misconduct includes:

1. "Cheating" which includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. The use of unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations, or completing assignments;
  - b. The acquisition, use, or distribution of unpublished materials created by another student without the express permission of the original author(s);
  - c. Using online sources, such as solution manuals, without the permission of the instructor to complete assignments, exams, tests, or quizzes; or
  - d. Requesting, hiring, or otherwise encouraging someone to take a course, exam, test, or complete assignments for a student.
2. "Falsification," which is the intentional use or submission of falsified data, records, or other information including, but not limited to, records of internship or practicum experiences or attendance at any required event(s), or scholarly research.
3. "Plagiarism," which is the submission or presentation of someone else's words, composition, research, or expressed ideas, whether published or unpublished, without attribution.  
Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. The use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; or
  - b. The unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or acquired from an entity engaging in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.
4. Unauthorized collaboration.
5. Engaging in behavior specifically prohibited by an instructor in the course of class instruction or in a course syllabus.
6. Multiple submissions of the same work in separate courses without the express permission of the instructor(s).
7. Taking deliberate action to destroy or damage another's academic work in order to gain an advantage for oneself or another.
8. The recording of instructional content without the express permission of the instructor(s), unless approved as a disability accommodation, and/or the dissemination or use of such unauthorized records.

(Source: WAC 478-121 - Academic Misconduct)

Plagiarism may lead to disciplinary action by the University against the student who submitted the work. Any student who is uncertain whether his or her use of the work of others constitutes plagiarism should consult the course instructor for guidance before formally submitting the course work involved.

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## INCOMPLETES

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Incomplete grades may only be awarded if a student is doing satisfactory work up until the last two weeks of the quarter and has furnished proof satisfactory to the instructor that the work cannot be completed because of illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control. (Sources: Office of the Registrar – Incomplete Grades, UW General Catalog, Student Guide – Grading System)

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## GRADE APPEAL PROCEDURE

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A student who believes that the instructor erred in the assignment of a grade, or who believes a grade recoding error or omission has occurred, shall first discuss the matter with the instructor before the end of the following academic quarter (not including Summer Quarter). If the student is not satisfied with the instructor's explanation, the student, no later than ten days after their discussion with the instructor, may submit a written appeal to the chair of the Department of Philosophy with a copy of the appeal also sent to the instructor. The chair consults with the instructor to ensure that the evaluation of the student's performance has not been arbitrary or capricious. Should the chair believe the instructor's conduct to be arbitrary or capricious and the instructor declines to revise the grade, the chair, with the approval of the voting members of his or her faculty, shall appoint an appropriate member, or members, of the faculty of the Department of Philosophy to evaluate the performance of the student and assign a grade. The Dean and Provost should be informed of this action. Once a student submits a written appeal, this document and all subsequent actions on this appeal are recorded in written form for deposit in a School file. (Source: UW General Catalog, Student Guide – Grading System)

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## CONCERNS ABOUT A COURSE, AN INSTRUCTOR, OR A TEACHING ASSISTANT

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If you have any concerns about a philosophy course or your instructor, please see the instructor about these concerns as soon as possible. If you are not comfortable talking with the instructor or not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may contact the chair of the program offering the course (names available from the Department of Philosophy, 361 Savery Hall).

If you have any concerns about a teaching assistant, please see the teaching assistant about these concerns as soon as possible. If you are not comfortable talking with the teaching assistant or not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may contact the instructor in charge of the course. If you are still not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may contact the chair of the program offering the course (names available from the Department of Philosophy, 361 Savery Hall), or the Graduate School at G-1 Communications Building (543-5900).

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## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

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The University of Washington reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran in accordance with University of Washington policy and applicable federal and state statutes and regulations.

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## ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

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See the information on page 5 above: Access and Accommodations.

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## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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Sexual harassment is defined as the use of one's authority or power, either explicitly or implicitly, to coerce another into unwanted sexual relations or to punish another for his or her refusal, or as the creation by a member of the University community of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment through verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

If you believe that you are being harassed, seek help—the earlier the better. You may speak with your instructor, your teaching assistant, the undergraduate advisor (363 Savery Hall), graduate program advisor (366 Savery Hall), or the chair of the philosophy department (364 Savery Hall). In addition, you should be aware that the University has designated special people to help you. For assistance you may contact: [SafeCampus](#); [Office of the Ombud](#) (339 HUB, 206-543-6028); [Title IX Investigation Office](#) (for complaints that a University student has violated the sexual misconduct provisions of the Student Conduct Code); [University Complaint Investigation and Resolution Office](#) (for complaints concerning the behavior of University employees, including faculty, teaching assistants, and other student employees).

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## INTEGRITY

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The Office of Research Misconduct Proceedings (ORMP) coordinates the University's handling of allegations of research misconduct against members of the University community, in consultations and cooperation with the University's schools, colleges, and campuses.

University rules define scientific and scholarly misconduct to include the following forms of inappropriate activity: intentional misrepresentation of credentials; falsification of data; plagiarism; abuse of confidentiality; deliberate violation of regulations applicable to research.

Students can report cases of scientific or scholarly misconduct either to the ORMP, to their faculty adviser, or the department chair. The student should report such problems to whomever he or she feels most comfortable.

*(Sources: [Executive Order No. 61 – Research Misconduct Policy](#); [Office of Research Misconduct Proceedings](#); minutes of Grad School Executive Staff and Division Heads meeting, 7/23/98.)*

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## SAFECAMPUS

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Preventing violence is everyone's responsibility. SafeCampus is the University of Washington's Violence Prevention and Response Program. They support students, staff, faculty, and community members in preventing violence.

SafeCampus staff will listen to your concerns and provide support and safety plans tailored to your situation. Caring, trained professionals will talk you through options and connect you with additional resources if you want them.

If you're concerned, tell someone.

- Always call 911 if you or others may be in danger.
- Call 206-685-SAFE (7233) to report non-urgent threats of violence and for referrals to UW counseling and/or safety resources. TTY or VP callers, please call through your preferred relay service.
- Don't walk alone. Campus safety guards can walk with you on campus after dark. Call Husky NightWalk 206-685-WALK (9255).
- Stay connected in an emergency with UW Alert. Register your mobile number to receive instant notification of campus emergencies via text and voice messaging. [Sign up for UW Alert](#) online.



- For more information visit the [SafeCampus website](#).

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## RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).

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## FOOD INSECURITY AND HARDSHIP

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the UW Any Hungry Husky Program. Any Hungry Husky provides hunger relief free of judgment or stigma. Go to <https://www.washington.edu/anyhungryhusky/> for information about the food pantry and food security grants. In addition, UW offers emergency aid for students experiencing unexpected financial hardships that may disrupt their education or get in the way of completing their degree. Go to <https://www.washington.edu/emergencyaid/> for more information about how to apply.

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## GUIDANCE TO STUDENTS TAKING COURSES OUTSIDE THE U.S.

Faculty members at U.S. universities – including the University of Washington – have the right to academic freedom which includes presenting and exploring topics and content that other governments may consider to be illegal and, therefore, choose to censor. Examples may include topics and content involving religion, gender and sexuality, human rights, democracy and representative government, and historic events.

If, as a UW student, you are living outside of the United States while taking courses remotely, you are subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction. Local authorities may limit your access to course material and take punitive action towards you. Unfortunately, the University of Washington has no authority over the laws in your jurisdictions or how local authorities enforce those laws.

If you are taking UW courses outside of the United States, you have reason to exercise caution when enrolling in courses that cover topics and issues censored in your jurisdiction. If you have concerns regarding a course or courses that you have registered for, please contact your academic advisor who will assist you in exploring options.

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## FACE COVERINGS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING IN THE CLASSROOM DURING COVID

The health and safety of the University of Washington community are the institution's priorities. Until otherwise stated **face coverings are required** per [UW COVID Face Covering Policy](#): indoors where other people are present and outdoors when keeping a 6-foot distance may not be possible. **This includes all classrooms and buildings/public spaces on each of the UW campuses.**

If you physically can't wear a mask, you choose not to wear a mask, your mask isn't appropriate/sufficient, or if you aren't wearing a mask properly (COVERING BOTH YOUR NOSE AND MOUTH-DIAGRAM BELOW), you **CANNOT** be in the classroom and will be asked to leave.

If you have a medical condition or health risk as outlined in the [UW COVID Face Covering Policy](#), you may request an accommodation. Please contact Disability Resources for Students office **BEFORE GOING TO CLASS** at [uwdrs@uw.edu](mailto:uwdrs@uw.edu) (Seattle) [drsugt@uw.edu](mailto:drsugt@uw.edu) (Tacoma) [uwbdrs@uw.edu](mailto:uwbdrs@uw.edu) (Bothell).

**A face covering must:**

- Fit snugly against the sides of the face
- Completely cover the nose and mouth
- Be secured with ties, ear loops, elastic bands, or other equally effective method
- Include at least one layer of cloth, although multiple layers are strongly recommended
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be capable of being laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape



CDC: How to Wear Masks

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