I. PURPOSE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of masks and cloth face coverings, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The purpose of the mask is to keep the person who is wearing the mask from spreading germs to those around them and is not intended as a form of respiratory protection. The purpose of this executive order is to provide updated information to Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) members regarding the requirement for on-duty use of Department-issued and authorized masks.

II. PROCEDURES

A. Effective immediately, on-duty sworn and civilian members shall wear Department-issued or authorized masks when they are outside and when they are inside and others are present.

B. Department-Issued Masks

1. Watch commanders shall ensure that a sufficient supply of replacement masks is available for each shift. In the event that a member’s mask becomes damaged or soiled, he or she shall contact their official who shall ensure that the member is provided with a replacement as soon as possible.

2. Members who wish to purchase additional masks matching the department-issued, white, medical-purpose, copper mask may do so at their own expense at


3. Members are reminded that the department-issued medical purpose, copper masks should be washed daily after use in hot water with
detergent (no bleach) and may be washed up to 30 times. Department-issued surgical masks may be used until they become soiled or damaged.

C. Personal Masks

1. In addition to department-issued masks, on-duty members may wear personal masks purchased at their own expense.

2. Personal masks must be made from one solid color fabric in white, navy blue, grey, or black. Personal masks may have “MPD,” “MPDC,” or a replica of the standard MPD police patch visible, but must have no other text, patterns, designs, or logos visible to the public. Personal masks must fit the member's face securely and must only cover the member's mouth, nose and chin. Bandanas are not authorized.

D. Members are reminded that department-issued and authorized masks are not intended for use in place of N95 masks/respirators.

1. Members shall maintain PPE on their person for all investigate the trouble, man/woman down, and medical-related calls for service or self-initiated police actions.

2. When necessary (e.g., administering CPR), members shall don their gloves and N-95 mask/respirator at a minimum. Full PPE is not required unless the subject is exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

E. To the extent that provisions in this executive order conflict with existing directives, the provisions set forth in this executive order shall prevail.

Peter Newsham
Chief of Police

PN:KDO:MOC