



Home-Learning Activity

Actividad de Aprendizaje en Casa

WEEK OF/
Semana de:

THIS ACTIVITY IS FOR GRADES/
ESTA ACTIVIDAD ES PARA
LOS GRADOS:

Title of Activity/Título de la Actividad:

Learning Outcome/ Objetivo de la Actividad:

Activity Description/ Descripción de la Actividad:

Activity Resources/ Recursos para la Actividad:

Volunteers sew face masks for health workers facing shortages

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 03.31.20

Word Count **531**

Level **600L**



Image 1. Briana Danyeale sews cloth face masks that say "We Got This!" in her mother's living room in Greer, South Carolina, March 22, 2020. The masks will be sent to health care workers. Legions of everyday Americans are sewing masks for desperate hospitals, nursing homes and homeless shelters amid the coronavirus pandemic. Photo: Christina Hunter via AP

Bill Purdue has been helping make face masks. He cuts cotton squares. His friend sews them into masks.

Briana Danyeale is a fashion designer. She turned her mother's living room in South Carolina into a mini sewing factory. She makes masks that say "We Got This!"

People around the world are making face masks for healthcare workers because of the coronavirus. Hospitals, doctors and nurses are desperate. They say do-it-yourself face masks are better than nothing.

Slowing The Spread

Coronavirus is a flu-like illness. It began in China. It has been spreading across the globe since December 2019. Health officials have been encouraging social distancing. This means staying

home and staying away from other people to help slow the spread of the virus. Many schools have shut down. Many companies are telling employees to work from home. Major sporting and entertainment events have also been canceled or postponed.

For most people, the virus is mild. They might have a fever and cough. For others, it can be quite serious. Older adults and people with existing health problems are especially at risk. Most people get better. Some people have died.

The virus, though, is now spreading quickly. Health care systems in several cities are at their max.

Pam Hight is the spokeswoman for Deaconess Health System in Indiana. The hospital put out a call for help. They needed protective equipment.

People began offering masks from all across the country. "It makes your heart warm; people are so good," she said.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center is New Hampshire's largest hospital. It plans to give kits to volunteers so they can make masks. The homemade masks can go to patients, staff and visitors. Then, the hospital can save medical-grade masks. They will go to front-line health care workers.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is also called the CDC. It helps guide healthcare in the country. The week of March 16, it changed its guidelines. It now says that hospitals should try to reuse surgical masks. Some healthcare workers must wear one mask through a whole shift. Scarves or bandanas could be used "as a last resort." Some health experts do not agree. They warned that cloth masks might not work.



"Extremely Last Resort"

Mary Dale Peterson runs a children's hospital in Texas. She refused homemade masks. Many companies have high-grade masks. She thinks they should give or sell their masks to hospitals.

Homemade masks would be an "extremely, extremely last resort," she said. "I really hope it doesn't get to that point in the U.S."

Businesses are also helping out. Joann Stores sell craft supplies. People can go to the stores to sew masks and hospital gowns, said Amanda Hayes. She is a spokeswoman for the store. The store will follow CDC guidelines to keep people safe. Customers can also take kits to make masks at home.

Hayes said they are giving people a chance to help out. Right now, many feel they do not have control.

Danyeale in South Carolina has made about 200 masks. "It's super sad that we're at this point, but this is encouraging."

Quiz

1 Read the paragraph from the article.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center is New Hampshire's largest hospital. It plans to give kits to volunteers so they can make masks. The homemade masks can go to patients, staff and visitors. Then, the hospital can save medical-grade masks. They will go to front-line health care workers.

Which sentence from this paragraph explains who will use the medical-grade masks?

- (A) Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center is New Hampshire's largest hospital.
- (B) It plans to give kits to volunteers so they can make masks.
- (C) The homemade masks can go to patients, staff and visitors.
- (D) They will go to front-line health care workers.

2 Read the paragraph from the article.

People around the world are making face masks for healthcare workers because of the coronavirus. Hospitals, doctors and nurses are desperate. They say do-it-yourself face masks are better than nothing.

Which question is answered in this paragraph?

- (A) How many do-it-yourself face masks have been made?
- (B) Why are people making do-it-yourself face masks?
- (C) Which hospitals need do-it-yourself face masks?
- (D) When did people begin making do-it-yourself face masks?

3 How did the change to CDC guidelines on March 16 affect healthcare workers?

- (A) It forced them to use cloth masks instead of surgical masks.
- (B) It allowed them to use their surgical masks more than once.
- (C) It banned them from using all types of cloth masks.
- (D) It asked them to switch their masks several times in a shift.

4 Why did Mary Dale Peterson refuse homemade masks?

- (A) because she thinks her hospital has too many masks
- (B) because companies are giving her lots of high-grade masks
- (C) because she thinks they do not work that well
- (D) because CDC guidelines state she cannot accept them