



**Newport News
Shipbuilding**

April 6, 2020

Dear Shipbuilders,

Thank you for your continued feedback and questions. First and foremost, I want to remind you that liberal leave is available to everyone, and you can choose to stay home if you feel unsafe or uncomfortable coming to work.

Second, I want to share our updated guidance for wearing cloth face coverings. While I know there has been confusion over this, for me included, the [new CDC guidance](#) for wearing masks and face coverings says that it is better to wear them than not. Based on this, I encourage each of us to wear one, especially when you are not able to maintain a distance of six feet in your work area.

We are purchasing face coverings for all employees, but given the high demand and limited supply across the U.S., it will take a couple of days to get them in the yard and distributed.

To supplement what we are purchasing:

- Our Sail Loft team began producing face coverings today, and we have already distributed over 1,000 to shipbuilders. THANK YOU SAIL LOFT SHIPBUILDERS!
- We are distributing fabric to shipbuilders to make their own.
- We will distribute NNS-made face coverings and NNS-purchased face coverings and fabric material as they become available.

There are many ways we can contribute to our own safety and the safety of those around us. I encourage you to make your own face mask from materials you may have at home as recommended by the CDC – not just for work, but for your trips to the grocery store, gas stations and other places in the community. In fact, some of you have already sent pictures of your homemade masks. I encourage you to continue messaging me your photos, and we will post them, because we could all use a reminder that we are in this together.

Shipbuilders, I have one final request. While we are doing everything we can to enable social distancing in our work environments, we all share a responsibility to stand six feet apart as we come in to work, during lunch, and as we leave. In all of the ever-changing guidance, the one recommendation that has held steadfast is the 6-foot social distancing guidance. Let's all do our best to follow this guidance throughout our day.

Thank you for all you are doing.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Boykin
President, Newport News Shipbuilding

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