## **Reusable Mask Sewing Directions**

Fabric: Cotton, cotton blends, denim. Not jersey or tee shirt knit as it is not effective in shielding.

Cotton Mask: Using the pattern double your fabric to cut two pieces at a time. You will need four pieces total; two for the front and two for the back. You can use two different fabrics to make your mask reversable.

Denim Mask- Reuse/recycle denim jeans: masks made of denim have found to be the most effective in containing droplets. You can do a simplified version of this pattern with denim and line it with cotton or if you are short on materials make it one layer of denim and trim it with fabric, seam binding or roll the edges and sew them down for a completed look.

Increasing effectiveness: you can add 1) use iron on fusing/interfacing (Pellon brand) in between the two layers, 2) add a layer of cotton quilt batting or 3) use an additional layer of cotton = 3 layers.

## **SEW**

STEP 1: If using fusible interfacing, fabric or cotton batting; cut 2 pieces using pattern and iron fusible interfacing onto backside of the fabric. Iron from the front side of the fabric or you will melt your fusible interfacing. If using fabric/batting pin in place to the backside of the fabric and

STEP 2: Put right sides together and sew the curved seam, ¼+ inch distance from the edge. Do this for both front and back pieces.

STEP 3: Put the right sides of the sewed front and back mask and stitch together both sides and top. Turn your mask right side out and press.

STEP 4: optional- nose bridge "clamp": Using bendable thin metal strip, ~18 or less gauge wire, or a twist tie double or tripled over. Insert metal bridge in-between (inside) the mask over the nose bridge. Sew the nose bridge metal piece into place from the front side of the mask. Iron flat.

STEP 5: Turn ½ inch of the bottom of the front and back of the mask to the inside and sew along the edge to complete the mask.

## STEP 6 Mask tie / Ear loop:

## **ELASTIC:**

- 1) Measure how much elastic is needed to fit from near the top corner of the mask, around the ear to near the bottom corner. Sew each elastic end directly onto the mask. Suggest attaching sewing the top end of the elastic to the mask then fitting it prior to cutting the elastic.
- 2) Turn the sides of the mask over approx. ½ inch and sew to create a channel for elastic to thread into. To thread the elastic, use a safety pin on one elastic end and thread through the channel on the side of the mask. Measure how much elastic is needed to loop around ear, cut and sew elastic end OR cut elastic longer and with both ends together tie into a knot. The knot can be adjusted to wherever it is comfortable.

TIES: Ties can be made from many sources; ribbon, soft shoelaces, strips of upcycled tee shirt or from the same fabric as your mask. If making a tie from the same fabric you will want to have the edges turned inside and sewn so it is doesn't fray.

- ❖ 4 tie method: Cut four ties @ 16-18 inches long and sew one each to the top and bottom near the four corners of the mask. Tie the bottom ties around the back of neck and the top ties around head.
- ❖ Loop Tie Method: Create a "channel" on each side of mask: Turn the sides of the mask over approx. ½ inch and sew to create a channel for the tie to thread through.
  - Simple tie: Measure how much of a tie is needed to loop around ear, cut and sew the tie end loop together OR cut the tie longer and with both ends together tie into a knot. The knot can be adjusted to wherever it is comfortable.
  - Using a tie measuring ~ 45inches, thread the tie using a safety ping down one of the top sides of the mask channel and making a loop through the bottom side of the opposite channel. The tie can be adjusted to slip over your head. The top ends tie behind your head.