



Tie Dye Masks

THE MASKS YOU ARE MAKING TODAY WILL BE DONATED TO STAFF AND CLIENTS OF LOCAL HEALTHCARE FACILITIES (TO BE USED OUTSIDE OF THE FACILITY). THEY WILL GO TO INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY OTHERWISE HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCESSING THE MASKS THAT ARE NOW REQUIRED FOR EVERYDAY LIFE.



Masks have been shown to provide some protection to the wearer from COVID-19, but even more protection to others from individuals who have COVID-19 and may not know. We wear masks to protect others.

DID YOU KNOW?

Towards the beginning of the pandemic, a Virginia based Rabbi decided to write a blessing for wearing a mask, saying: "Since protective acts like hygienic hand-washing, wearing face masks, and sheltering in place should be considered mitzvot [commandments], at least during this pandemic, it seems to me that they should be preceded by an appropriate blessing, just like other *mitzvot*."² The text of the blessing is:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל שְׂמִירַת הַנְּפֶשׁ

[Blessed are you, Lord our God], majesty of space and time, who has sanctified us with divine commandments and has commanded us about protecting life.³

DISCUSS

- What does it mean to you to think of wearing a mask as a mitzvah, or commandment?
- How else are you responsible for others in your community, even those you do not know?

¹ <https://www.tamug.edu/covid-19/resource-files/digital/WearingMask-SelflessService/800X400.jpg>

^{2,3} <https://www.ritualwell.org/ritual/blessing-wearing-face-mask>

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TODAY, EVERYONE NEEDS A MASK TO GO OUT IN PUBLIC. THE MASKS YOU ARE MAKING WILL BE GIVEN TO ADULTS AND CHILDREN WHO ARE WORKING OR ARE PATIENTS AT LOCAL HEALTHCARE FACILITIES TO MAKE SURE THEY ALSO HAVE ENOUGH MASKS TO GO OUT IN PUBLIC AND KEEP EVERYONE SAFE.

As a family, read or listen to the story "My Hero is You," on JVC's website at jvcbaltimore.org/masklearning



DISCUSS

- What are the ways children act as heroes in the story?
- How are you helping fight COVID-19 by making these masks?

DID YOU KNOW?

In Judaism, it is said that if you save a life, it is like you've saved the entire world.

- What does this mean to you?
- What does this have to do with making and wearing masks?

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