

DATE: August 13, 2020

TO: GRU Employees

FROM: Ed Bielarski, General Manager 

SUBJECT: Use of Neck Gaiter Face Coverings

GRU is discontinuing the use of neck gaiter face coverings following a national study that found wearing neck gaiters (or neck fleece) may be worse than wearing no face covering at all.

The study was conducted by Duke University and can be found [here](#). Researchers found that the material used to make the neck gaiters broke large droplets into smaller particles “that are more likely to hang around in the air longer,” potentially increasing exposure.

GRU employees currently using neck gaiters should talk to their supervisors about obtaining masks that achieved more effective results during tests.

While the CDC has not yet made a statement about neck gaiters, GRU is taking this proactive measure to keep you, your families and our work environment as safe as possible. Please do your part to help.

As we have said from the outset of this pandemic, it is a fluid situation, and the utility must adapt to changing circumstances. We're all in this together.

Thank you, and be safe.