

COMMUNITY PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT: NON-MEDICAL CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

OVERVIEW

1. **RATIONAL:** Individuals can transmit the coronavirus responsible for causing COVID-19 to others before showing any symptoms. The guidance pertaining to the general public wearing face coverings has changed from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) effective 4-2-2020 due to increasing evidence that individuals who do not appear to be sick are playing a role in spreading the coronavirus responsible for COVID-19.
2. **MEANING:** The virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity (less than 6 ft) even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms (e.g. droplet spray when speaking or sneezing).
3. **RECOMMENDATION:** All Americans are advised to “wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.” Americans should wear the non-medical cloth face coverings when around others as an added measure to protect other community members from the person wearing the face covering and their droplets, not to protect the person wearing the face covering from others in the community.
4. **RESULT:** Wearing cloth face coverings is an augmentation strategy, NOT a replacement strategy, to the six feet physical distancing guidelines to limit the spread of the virus.
5. **LIMITATIONS:** The cloth face coverings vary in what size particle (i.e. virus size) they would let in and how much they would do to protect the person wearing them. Some cloth face coverings have been tested and perform quite well and others offer virtually no additional protection to the person wearing the face covering. This guidance for all Americans to wear non-medical cloth face coverings in public settings is centered around protecting our community and should not be confused with personal protective equipment guidelines for healthcare workers (e.g. cloth face coverings do not replace surgical masks, N-95 respirators, or face shields for healthcare workers).
6. **CLEANING:** Cloth face coverings should be made in a way such that they can be laundered, and machine dried without damage or change in shape.
7. **STATE EMPLOYEE USE:** The state supports and encourages employees and individual’s served to wear cloth face coverings in any setting where these other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. Face covering design, print and graphics must meet workplace dress-code standards. *Again, cloth face coverings do NOT replace physical distancing measures, and state team members are still encouraged to observe physical distancing recommendations and to maintain six feet of distance from others.*

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PROTECTIVE MASKS

How should you wear them to stay safe?

Non-Medical Cloth Mask	Surgical Mask	N-95 Respirator
 <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Members of the public✗ Health care workers	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Members of the public✓ Health care workers	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Members of the public✓ Health care workers

Non-medical cloth masks should...

1. fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
2. be secured with ties or ear loops
3. include multiple layers of fabric
4. allow for breathing without restriction
5. be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape



Wash your cloth mask properly!

Wash dirty masks between each use. Wash in hot water with regular detergent. Dry completely on hot setting.



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CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL GUIDELINES

- [Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings](#)

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN FACE COVERING

- [VIDEO: How to Make Your own Face Covering](#)
- [PDF: Use of Cloth Face Coverings and Instructions on How to Make Your Own](#)