



Face coverings can be an effective means of slowing the spread of the infectious agent for many respiratory illnesses and may help slow the spread of COVID-19. Wearing a face covering does NOT provide complete protection and does not replace other ways of slowing virus spread such as:

- Staying away from public places & group gatherings
- Washing hands and using hand sanitizer often
- Practicing physical distancing
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth

**HOW SHOULD FACE COVERINGS BE HANDLED?**

- **Masks and cloth face coverings should be handled assuming they are contaminated with the virus causing COVID-19.**
- **Face coverings should be removed without touching the inside. They should be immediately placed with dirty laundry, or stored in a plastic bag until they can be properly cleaned.**
- Wash your hands after handling a used face covering or use hand sanitizer if hand washing is not an option. If possible, wash your face after removing a face covering.
- Cloth face coverings should be washed in hot water after each use. Follow CDC guidelines at [go.ncsu.edu/cdclaundry](http://go.ncsu.edu/cdclaundry).

**HOW DO MASKS AND CLOTH FACE COVERINGS WORK?**

- **Proper use may restrict the spread of virus from an infected person, or prevent a healthy person from becoming infected.**
- **Facemasks are tested for their ability to trap viruses in respiratory droplets moving at high velocity, such as in a cough or sneeze.**



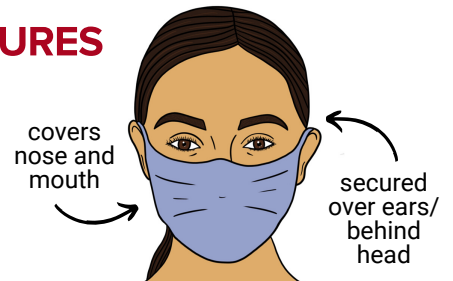
For more info, visit: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)

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Updated July 10, 2020



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