

FACE COVERINGS FAQs - COVID-19

When is the face covering required and who should not wear face coverings?

California Department of Public Health: [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Considerations for Wearing Cloth Face Coverings](#)

Individuals who are exempt from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition and who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their medical condition permits it. A drape that is form fitting under the chin is preferred.

Why are face coverings required?

Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates covering your nose and mouth slows the spread of COVID-19 because:

- Individuals can be contagious before experiencing symptoms.
- A cloth face covering can reduce the release of infectious particles into the air when someone speaks, coughs, or sneezes, including someone who has COVID-19 but feels well.
- We touch our face less when it is covered. Touching your face after touching something contaminated with COVID-19 increases your chances of getting sick.

Why is the CDC recommending cloth face coverings instead of medical grade facemasks?

The face covering is intended to prevent someone who does not know they are infected from transmitting COVID-19 to others. Since the intent of the face cover is to protect others rather than the person wearing the cover, a surgical face mask is not necessary. Medical respirators and surgical masks are in short supply and it is necessary that these items be reserved for health care settings.

What is a cloth face covering?

A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth, and can be secured to the head with ties or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. Acceptable, reusable face covering options include a bandana, scarf, neck gaiter or [homemade covering](#) assembled from cotton t-shirts or other tightly woven fabric.

Is physical distancing still necessary if everyone is wearing a face covering?

Yes. The CDC still recommends that persons stay at least 6 feet away from others (if persons are not from the same respective household), avoid gatherings, and frequently wash their hands.

What is the proper way to wear and to care for a cloth face covering?

Wash your hands *before* and *after* putting on, or taking off, the face covering. Wash the cloth face covering frequently, ideally after each use, or at least daily. Have a bag or bin to store cloth face coverings until they are laundered with detergent and hot water, and dried on a hot setting. Discard cloth face coverings that no longer cover the nose and mouth, have stretched out or damaged straps, cannot stay on the face, or have tears in the fabric.

Additional information and resources: <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/covid-19/> & [Infographic](#)

Questions? Submit questions through the Citizen Service Center by calling 626-744-7311 or by visiting <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/CSC>.