FACE COVERINGS FAQS - COVID-19

Why are face coverings now recommended?
Recent 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.

Is the face cover required?
Everyone is asked to wear a face covering when they are interacting with others who are not members of their household.

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, or neck gaiter
- A homemade covering assembled from cotton t-shirts or other tightly woven fabric

Is social 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, avoid gatherings, and frequently wash their hands.

What is the proper way to care for a cloth 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.

What is the proper way to wear a face covering?
Wash your hands before and after putting on, or taking off, the face covering.

Who should not wear face coverings?
Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children younger than 2, or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the cover without assistance.

Questions? Contact the Pasadena Environmental Health Services Division at 626-744-6004, or through the Citizen Service Center by calling 626-744-7311 or by visiting https://www.cityofpasadena.net/CSC.