

Guidance on using Homemade Face Covers

Best Defense Against COVID-19

- Wash your hands frequently
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Avoid being around sick people
- Physical distancing by staying at home and keeping at least 6 feet distance from others when you do go out
- **Cloth face covers are not a substitute for physical distancing and staying at home**

When should I wear a cloth face cover?

- When you are outside the home conducting essential activities such as going to work, to the grocery store, pharmacy, banking and enjoying outdoor activities while maintaining physical distancing.
- If you are sick (have a cough or are sneezing) or have seasonal allergies you need to wear a cloth face cover when around other people to protect them from your sneezes.

How should I wear a cloth face cover?

- Start with a clean face cover (wash all donated face covers before use)
- Wash your hands
- Make sure it covers your mouth and nose with no gaps between your face and the cover
- Avoid touching your face cover while wearing it (if you do, wash hands or use an alcohol-based hand rub immediately)
- Replace the face cover with a new one as soon as it is damp
- Always use your cloth face cover with the same side facing out
- Wash face cover after each use or at least daily
 - place in separate bag or bin until it can be laundered
 - wash with detergent and hot water and dry on a hot cycle

*Those donating homemade masks should launder them in hot soapy water prior to distribution.

For additional information on making a homemade cloth covering and links to several online instructions and patterns, visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/protect.htm> under the "Should I wear a cloth face cover?"

Additional resources:

CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/.../prevent-getting.../cloth-face-cover.html>

FAQ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-faq.html>