

Use of Cloth Masks for the General Public

Wearing a cloth mask may prevent others from becoming infected.



Wearing of cloth masks will not reduce the wearer's risk of infection, and must be done with other more protective non-pharmaceutical measures such as hand washing, social distancing and avoidance of touching your face.

People with COVID-19 or are on quarantine should leave their homes only for medical care and should wear a cloth mask.

If you are sick, stay home. Do not go to work or public places even with a cloth mask on.

Why should I wear a cloth face covering? This will protect people around you. Early in the illness, you may be infected but not know it. The cloth face covering prevents droplets from landing on surfaces. This is added protection to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Duties require me to wear special head gear and equipment. What should I do? Use of occupational equipment for personal protection or to perform your job supersedes the cloth face covering. Wear the cloth face covering when conducting essential business in the community and when safe to do so in at your job.

Should aircrews or missile crews wear a cloth face cover when performing duties? At no time should you wear the cloth face covering when it may be a safety hazard. Aircrew should securely store their cloth face covering before entering the crew compartment. Safety of flight issues are paramount in determining face covering during the performance of duty.

When do you need to wear a cloth face covering? A cloth face covering should be worn when you are in the community, especially in situations where you are unable to maintain at least 6 feet of distance. This includes the commissary, BX and pharmacy. Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing. Cloth face coverings are especially important to wear when COVID-19 is known to be in your community.

Do I still need to stay at least 6 feet away from people if wearing a cloth face covering? Yes. Wearing cloth face coverings is an additional step people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19. CDC recommends that you stay at least 6 feet away from other people (social distancing), wash hands frequently, use cough and sneeze etiquette and clean surfaces frequently.

What type of cloth face covering should be worn? Cloth face coverings can be made from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost. As an interim measure, you are encouraged to fashion face covering from common materials such as a clean t-shirt or cloth that will cover the mouth and nose. DO NOT use old uniforms/flight suits as they may have insect repellent or flame retardant in the fabric. Until further guidance is available, ensure professional standards are upheld as much as possible.

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

Why is CDC recommending cloth face coverings instead of medical grade facemasks? The cloth face covering is an added layer of prevention, in addition to social distancing and hygiene. Surgical masks and N95 respirators are in short supply and are to be used by healthcare workers or other medical first responders, as recommended by CDC guidance.

How Do I wear and make a face covering? Visit the CDC's page below for tips on how to make your own face covering and how the use of cloth face coverings can help to slow the spread of COVID-19 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>