



FACE COVERING(S)

“Face Covering” or “Face Coverings” means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that fully covers only the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face. A covering that hides or obscures the wearer’s eyes or forehead is not a Face Covering. Examples of Face Coverings include a scarf or bandana; a neck gaiter; a homemade covering made from a t-shirt, sweatshirt, or towel, held on with rubber bands or otherwise; or a mask, which need not be medical-grade.

A Face Covering may be factory-made, or may be handmade and improvised from ordinary household materials. The Face Covering should be comfortable, so that the wearer can breathe through the nose and does not have to adjust it frequently, so as to avoid touching the face.

For Face Coverings that are not disposed of after each use, people should clean them frequently and have extra ones available so that they have a clean one available for use. Information on cleaning a Face Covering is available from the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wash-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

For as long as medical-grade masks such as N95 masks and surgical masks are in short supply, members of the public should not purchase those masks for use as Face Coverings under this Order. Such medical-grade masks should be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.

Any mask that incorporates a one-way valve (typically a raised plastic cylinder about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask) that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling allows droplets to be released from the mask, putting others nearby at risk. As a result, these masks are **not** a Face Covering under this Order and **must not** be used to comply with this Order’s requirements.

Face Coverings should not be used as a substitute for other evidence-based measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Face Coverings should be used in addition to, but not in place of, other evidence-based measures (e.g. physical distancing; frequent hand washing practices; avoiding touching our eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; avoiding being around sick people). Physical distancing of 6 feet or greater should be maintained between non-household members even when donning Face Covering(s).