Cloth face coverings are **NOT** intended to prevent the wearer from contracting COVID-19. They are considered Community Protective Equipment (CPE) to **LIMIT** the spread of COVID-19. Cloth face coverings provide a fluid barrier when a person coughs, sneezes, or talks.

### Safety Tips

- **Practice good hand hygiene.** Wash hands before and after handling, putting on, or removing the face covering.
- Secure the face covering snugly but comfortably against sides of face.
- Do not touch eyes, nose, and mouth when removing the face covering.
- Place face covering in a clean bag or container between uses.
- Ensure your face covering includes multiple layers of cotton fabric.

### Important Reminders

- Cloth face coverings are **not** the same as surgical masks and N95 respirators.
- Cloth face coverings or other masks with exhalation valves should **not** be used.
- Cloth face coverings should not restrict breathing.
- Cloth face coverings should not be worn by anyone with breathing problems.
- Cloth face coverings should be used in conjunction with social distancing.

### Cleaning and Reuse

- Machine wash at the highest temperature possible and machine dry or follow manufactures recommendation.
- Only use/reuse your own face covering. Label it with your name if it is not identifiably unique.

### Materials That Can Make a Cloth Face Covering

- Cotton Fabrics
- Cotton T-Shirts
- Cotton Bandanas

### Alternate Acceptable Face Coverings

- Non-medical grade particulate masks
- Non-medical surgical type masks
- KN95s

The graphic to the right illustrates the probability of contagion when a person coughs or sneezes when they are wearing a face covering vs not. Although the spread of germs is not completely blocked by the mask, it is reduced.

For more information on COVID-19 visit [www.clemson.edu/research/safety](http://www.clemson.edu/research/safety)