

# The Facts



## OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

### On Cloth Face Coverings

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. Face masks may protect you, but that depends on the fabrics used and how your mask is made (e.g. the type of fabric, the number of layers of fabric, how well the mask fits).

#### 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 Notices

- Cloth face coverings are not the same as surgical masks and N95 respirators.
- Multiple layer cloth masks, KN95s, KF94 **SHOULD** be used.
- Masks should fit snugly.
- For additional protection, wear a cloth face covering over a nonmedical surgical mask.
- 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.



The photo to the left shows an example of a cloth face covering with an exhalation valve, which is **NOT ACCEPTABLE**.

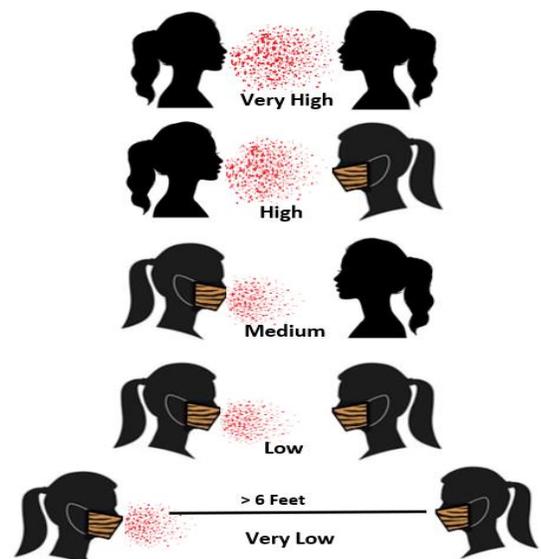
#### Recommended for Cloth Face Coverings

- Nonmedical
- Made with tightly woven disposable masks.
- Snug fit around the nose and chin with no large gaps.
- Masks with 2 or 3 layers
- Masks with inner filter pockets.

#### NOT Recommended for Cloth Face Coverings

- Large gaps, too loose or too tight.
- Masks made from hard to breath material (plastic, leather, etc.).
- Masks with 1 layer.
- Using gaiters or face shields as alternatives.
- Masks made from loosely woven fabric or knitted.

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 further information on face coverings, visit the CDC's 'Considerations for Wearing Masks' article.