



## DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT #10 PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON WEARING FACE COVERINGS DURING COVID-19

May 1, 2020 - Governor Whitmer's extended Stay Home, Stay Safe executive order states that any individual able to medically tolerate a face covering must wear a covering over his or her nose and mouth—such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief—when in any enclosed public space.

With this new requirement, District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) reminds everyone that we must continue to follow the guidelines set in place to keep the public safe, including the use of face coverings in public.

“When wearing a mask in public, keep in mind, it’s not about you, it’s about ensuring the people around you remain safe. People need to be minimizing the spread of COVID-19 in as many ways as possible, including this one,” said Kevin Hughes, Health Officer for DHD#10.

In addition to regularly washing your hands and practicing social distancing, follow this guidance for face masks:

- Wear a face covering whenever you are in a public setting, especially when you may be near people, are caring for others, or are sick yourself.
- Face coverings should be worn by everyone *except* - children under age 2, and anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious or otherwise unable to remove the mask without help.
- Assign one face covering to one person; avoid sharing your mask with others in the family.
- Before placing your face covering on your face, carefully wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a minimum of 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- When placing your face covering on your face, grasp it by the loops, bands, or ties and secure it properly.
  - Be sure to cover your mouth and nose.
  - Be sure there are no gaps between your face and the covering.
- Avoid touching your mask while wearing it as it is now considered contaminated - if you do touch your face or mask, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer immediately.
- Avoid hanging your face covering from your neck or one ear because it is considered contaminated.
- To remove your face covering, do not grab the covering itself; instead lean forward and grasp the elastic loops, bands, or ties to carefully remove it.
- After removing your face covering, isolate it from others and treat it like a biohazard because it is contaminated - consider putting it in a paper bag or washing it right away, or throw away if it is disposable.
- Wash your reusable face covering in your washing machine using detergent in hot water and dry it in your dryer before wearing again. You can also wash it by hand using soap and water and let it air dry for two days prior to wearing it again. You can iron your cloth face covering but should not bleach it.

For more information about COVID-19, go to:

[www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org), [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus), or [www.cdc.com/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.com/coronavirus)



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