

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health (BPH) continues to respond to the occurrence of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in West Virginia. BPH is advising WV residents to follow [CDC recommendations](#) for wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures may be difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

The use of simple cloth face coverings can potentially slow the spread of COVID-19 by helping people who may have the virus and not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost serve as an additional public health measure. It is important to note that face coverings do not replace the need to practice social distancing, to avoid touching your face, or to practice hand hygiene or environmental cleaning.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, which should continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and some first responders who are at much greater risk.

WHAT TYPE OF MASK DO I NEED?		
		
<p>CLOTH MASK OR FACE COVERING</p> <p>WHO SHOULD WEAR: General public and community workers.</p> <p>WHEN TO WEAR: When a person can't perform social distancing; scarves and bandanas can be used if necessary.</p> <p>USE LIMITATIONS: Homemade cloth masks and face coverings should be washed daily; don't wear damp or when wet from spit or mucus.</p>	<p>SURGICAL MASK</p> <p>WHO SHOULD WEAR: Healthcare workers in low risk settings and patients in healthcare settings.</p> <p>WHEN TO WEAR: During single or multiple patient interactions or routine health procedures; recommended when N95s are not available.</p> <p>USE LIMITATIONS: Ideally should be discarded after each patient encounter. Extended use is preferable to reuse.</p>	<p>N95 RESPIRATOR</p> <p>WHO SHOULD WEAR: Healthcare workers in high risk settings.</p> <p>WHEN TO WEAR: Caring for patients with COVID-19 and performing procedures that put them most at risk of virus exposure.</p> <p>USE LIMITATIONS: Ideally should be discarded after each patient encounter. Extended use is preferable to reuse. Consider approved decontamination strategies.</p>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Videos:
[How to Make Your Own Face Covering](#)

[Using a Shop Towel to Make a Face Mask](#)

Guidance:
[Protective Guidance for Non-Healthcare Settings](#)

[Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)

Questions and concerns can also be directed to the 24/7, toll-free COVID-19 information hotline:
1-800-887-4304