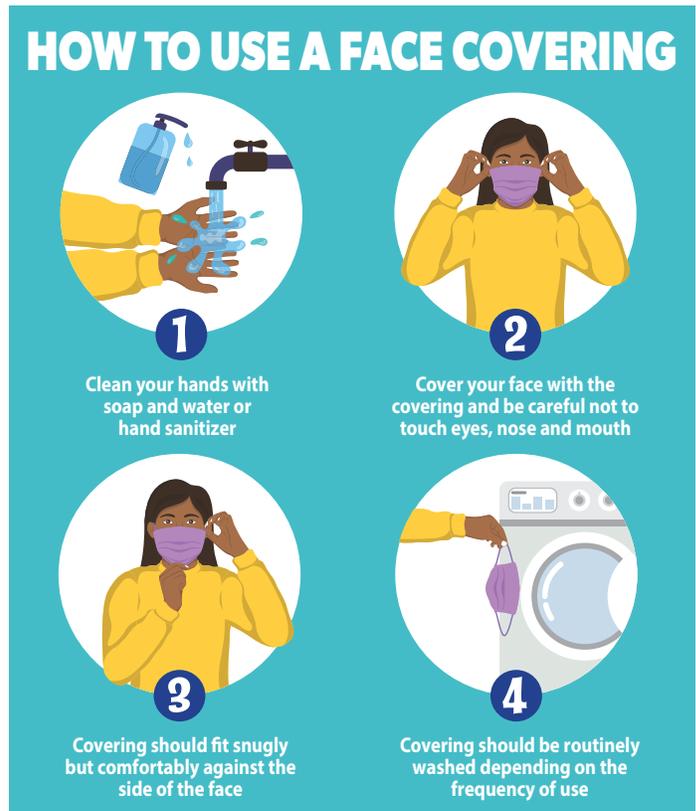


COVID-19 Questions



The CDC recommends everyone wear a face covering when they go out in public. This will keep COVID-19 positive individuals who are asymptomatic and may be unaware they are infected from spreading the virus.

- The virus spreads between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms.
- CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies).
- Face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing. Please continue to observe these measures (staying six feet apart while in line) to help slow the spread.
- Cloth face coverings can be fashioned from household items such as scarfs and t-shirts for personal use. (www.orangecountync.gov/SurgeonGeneralMask)
- Cloth face coverings help preserve the supply of surgical face coverings or N-95 respirators. Those critical supplies must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders.
- Wash your cloth covering regularly, after each use if possible, and exercise care when removing the face covering. Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their face covering and wash hands immediately after removing. A washing machine using hot water and regular laundry detergent should suffice in properly washing a face covering.
- The guidance for cloth face coverings applies to everyone in the community. As a community, we must also reflect on the criminalization and persecution of face and head coverings for communities of color and certain faith communities. Therefore, this guidance may create some fear, hesitancy, and anxiety for some members of our faith and communities of color.
- Wearing a face covering and social distancing will especially help those who have underlying health issues, particularly African-American and other communities of color, who typically experience higher rates of high blood pressure, diabetes, and asthma.
- The face covering should only cover your nose and mouth.



- Be creative. Use brightly colored materials to make your face covering. The cloth is your canvas to express your personality and a great family activity.
- Let others know when you will be going out in public for essential items or work with a face covering on.
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children younger than 2 years of age, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.

Cloth or handmade face coverings should

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, covering the mouth and nose
- Be secured with ties, rubber bands or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

Call the Hotline (919) 245-6111 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Email questions to COVID19@orangecountync.gov

www.orangecountync.gov/Coronavirus