

ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Cloth and Homemade Masks

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is requiring customers and employees at businesses to wear masks in addition to its recommendation that people wear masks when they are out in public.

There is a limited supply of medical grade masks, and we are asking you and the rest of the public to reserve the use of surgical and N95 masks for those most in need, such as healthcare providers.

It is important to remember that homemade and cloth masks may not prevent you from getting sick but could prevent others from getting sick. Remember this saying: "My mask protects you, and your mask protects me."

Wearing a mask is not about protecting you, but rather, it is about protecting others if you have the virus but don't know it. According to some models, up to half of people with COVID-19 may not show any symptoms.

While wearing a mask, you still must stay at least 6 feet away from people and wash your hands frequently. People should stay home – regardless of whether they wear a mask or not – unless they are getting groceries, medicines, or other needed supplies, working in essential services, or getting exercise by walking, running, biking, or participating in other no-contact activities.

Please remember:

- DO NOT touch your face or the cloth part of the mask.
- Put the mask on and take it off only using the straps behind the ears.
- Make sure the mask always covers your nose, mouth, and chin.
- Handle dirty or used masks by the straps and wash in hot water with detergent after each use.
- Wash your hands before and after wearing your mask.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has resources available on [its website](#) including a guide to making your own masks and important information about homemade, surgical and N95 masks.

We are all learning more about COVID-19 every day.
We will update this information as we learn more.



bit.ly/ACHDcovid-19



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