



MAYOR'S OFFICE

April 8, 2020

City of San Antonio

Advisory Regarding Public Use of Face Coverings

Potential spread of COVID-19 by pre- and asymptomatic individuals is a growing concern as we look to reduce transmission in San Antonio and Bexar County. On April 3, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommended cloth face coverings by the general public to slow the spread of COVID-19. To align with CDC and Metro Health recommendations, Mayor Ron Nirenberg issues this face covering advisory to the San Antonio community.

We recommend that all people over the age of 5 years old should wear a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth when in a public place where it is difficult to keep six feet away from other people. Coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief. Residents must continue social distancing while outside their home. **DO NOT WEAR MEDICAL MASKS or N-95 RESPIRATORS AS THEY ARE A NEEDED RESOURCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.** The CDC recommendation recognizes that social distancing may be difficult while engaging in some essential services or activities such as visiting a pharmacy or grocery store.

Please note that face coverings are a complementary strategy to other mitigation efforts. **Face coverings are *not* a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick.** Face coverings may reduce face-touching, a frequent mode of transmission.

Residents must keep up the following habits while in public:

- wash your hands before you leave home and when you return,
- stay at least six feet away from others and
- avoid touching your nose or face.
- Do not use disposable masks more than three times.
- Wash reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

This advisory applies to cloth face covering and non-medical masks. Please remember that medical masks or N-95 respirators are NOT for public use as they are in short supply and should be conserved for healthcare workers and first responders. Our healthcare workers and

first responders on the front-line combating COVID-19 must have priority access to medical masks or other personal protective equipment.

Remember that the best protection is to stay at home.

Please visit the City of San Antonio COVID-19 website for additional information and helpful hints on the most effective way to use face coverings.