



KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



COUNTY OF KENT

WILLIAM WEBB, HEALTH OFFICER
125 S. LYNCHBURG STREET, CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND 21620 • PHONE: 410-778-1350

STATE OF MARYLAND

April 10, 2020

Please Wear Cloth Face Coverings in Public Settings

CDC continues to study the spread and effects of the novel coronavirus across the United States. They now know that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus do not have symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms.

In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

- Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used.
- The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

“I urge the public to follow the recommendations of the CDC,” said William Webb, Health Officer. “We need to use every tool we have to slow the spread of this virus. The best way to protect yourself and others is to stay at home unless you need to buy essentials like food or medicine, wash your hands often with soap and warm water, keep a distance of at least six feet between yourself and others and wear a cloth face covering in public places.”

To learn how to make and safely use a cloth face covering, visit the CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>

###