



# LASSEN COUNTY

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## Guidance for the General Public for Face Covering

April 7, 2020

The United States Surgeon General and the CDC are recommending the use of face coverings by the public. The rationale behind this decision is that asymptomatic people can transmit the virus. Lassen County is now recommending that the public wear face coverings in public.

The following are examples of face coverings:

- Homemade cloth masks covering the nose and mouth
- Bandanas fashioned to cover the nose and mouth
- Scarves worn over the nose and mouth

A study published by Cambridge University Press, found that both homemade cloth masks and traditional surgical masks significantly reduced the amount of potentially infectious droplets expelled by the **wearer**, though surgical masks were **three times** better for preventing transmission.

What this means:

- Cloth masks/coverings are less effective than medical masks. Their use, even if imperfect is better than nothing at helping limit the spread of the virus.
- Using a face covering does NOT mean that it is okay to relax social distancing and hand washing measures.
- Homemade masks/face coverings that are re-used have the potential to hold onto viruses and bacteria. If you are using a homemade cloth facemask, wash it frequently with hot water and soap and let it dry completely.
- Avoid close contact with people who appear unwell or sick even when wearing a face masks/covering.
- Businesses should consider obtaining homemade or cloth masks for their employees as part of their current safety protocol.

*Kenneth G Korver, M.D.*

Dated: 4/7/20

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