

Mandatory Use of Masks or Cloth Face Coverings **To Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19**

The CDC continues to study the spread and effects of the novel coronavirus across the United States. We now know from recent studies that a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 are asymptomatic and can transmit the virus without showing any symptoms. In light of this new evidence and in accordance with Palm Beach County Emergency Order No. 4, Directive To Wear Facial Covers, it is mandatory to wear masks or face coverings in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

Q: Why Do You Need To Wear Masks Or Face Coverings?

A: In light of new data about how COVID-19 spreads, along with evidence of widespread COVID-19 illness in communities across the country, CDC recommends that people wear a mask or face covering to cover their nose and mouth in the community setting. This is to protect people around you if you are infected but do not have symptoms.

Q: When Do You Need To Wear A Mask Or Face Covering?

A: A mask or face covering should be worn whenever people are in a community setting, especially in situations where you may be near people. These settings include grocery stores and pharmacies. Masks or face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing. Masks or face coverings are especially important to wear in public in areas of widespread COVID-19 illness.

Q: Do I Need To Stay At Least 6 Feet Away From People If Wearing A Mask Or Face Covering?

A: Yes. Wearing a mask or face covering is an additional public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19. CDC still recommends that you stay at least 6 feet away from other people (social distancing), frequent hand cleaning and other everyday preventive actions. A mask or face covering is not intended to protect the wearer, but it may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms.

