

Why must I use a cloth face mask when going out in public?



The main benefit of everyone wearing a face mask is to **reduce the amount of Coronavirus or Influenza virus droplets being coughed up by those with the infection**. Since some persons with the Coronavirus may not have symptoms or may not know they have it, everyone should wear a face mask.



The National Department of Health recommends that:

Everyone should wear **CLOTH** face masks when in public.



Handwashing and social distancing still remain the most important prevention strategies for COVID-19



Members of the public should not use N-95 and surgical masks; medical masks remain reserved only for healthcare workers.



How to use a cloth face mask:

- The face mask must cover the nose and mouth completely.
- Face masks should not be lowered when speaking, coughing or sneezing.
- Face masks should not be repeatedly touched – fidgeting with the mask repeatedly is strongly discouraged.
- The inner side of the mask should not be touched by hands.
- Wash hands after removing the face mask.
- Wash cloth face masks with warm soapy water and iron when dry.
- Each person will need to have at least 2 face masks so that one face mask is available when the other is being washed.

