



## Public Health Administration

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Butte County Health Officer Urges the Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help County Readiness for Reopening**

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – To protect against COVID-19 and to help the county be able to reopen, Butte County Public Health Officer, Dr. Andy Miller strongly recommends the use of cloth face coverings for individuals who must leave their home to conduct essential activity.

“As local plans to reopen are established, along with information from the Governor and the State Health Department, wearing a cloth face covering will help our community in this process by limiting the spread of the virus and reinforcing social distancing,” stated Dr. Andy Miller.

We now know from recent studies that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack 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.

Staying home, hand washing, not touching your face and physical distancing are still the best community and individual steps to limit and slow the transmission of COVID-19. The addition of a cloth face covering is a great way to protect yourself, your family and others around you. Use of a cloth face covering helps reduce the spread of COVID-19 and therefore, may help as the county looks to reopen.

#### **Cloth Face Covering Safety Measures:**

- Wash your hands before putting on a face covering
- Don't touch your face or the face covering during usage
- Wash the face covering before using it again
- Face coverings are not a substitute for staying home or social distancing, especially when ill.
- The purchase of N95 respirator masks should be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.

A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

#### **Quick Links for Cloth Face Coverings:**

- Guidance from the [California Department of Public Health](https://www.cdph.ca/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Imz/Pages/COVID-19/Face-Coverings.aspx).
- Guidance from the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s110520-face-coverings.html).
- [DIY Bandana Face Covering](https://www.buttecounty.net/health/COVID-19/face-coverings.html)

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