**COVID-19 Cloth Face Covering**

**Cloth face coverings** help reduce the spread of potentially infectious droplets within the community when combined with physical distancing and hand washing.

**How to Use**
The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health encourages individuals to wear a cloth face covering over nose and mouth when in public for essential activities (e.g., shopping at the grocery store). The CDC recommends a cloth face covering and surgical mask (both tightly-fitted) to improve performance and reduce viral transmission/exposure. Wearing a face covering does not eliminate the need to physically distance yourself from others and to wash your hands frequently.

**Cloth Face Covering Care**
- Wash cloth face covering frequently, ideally after each use, or at least daily.
- Launder with detergent and hot water.
- Dry on hot cycle.
- Wash your hands when putting on and removing your face covering and avoid touching your face.

**Face Coverings vs PPE**
A cloth face covering is not considered PPE. PPE is worn by healthcare workers or those who provide services for a person who is suspected to have COVID-19. A face covering is recommended for the general public (including someone who has COVID-19 and is asymptomatic) to reduce the spread of infectious particles into the air when the wearer speaks, coughs, or sneezes.

**Examples of Face Coverings**
- Bandana
- Neck Gaitor
- Homemade sewn cloth
- Scarf
- Tightly woven fabric e.g., cotton T-shirts

Wear a fitted cloth face covering in combination with a fitted mask to improve filtering efficiency and maximize protection.

**Improved Mask Protection**
Wear a surgical mask underneath your cloth face covering as recommended by the CDC to reduce viral transmission/exposure.

Remember to practice hand hygiene after touching or adjusting your face covering and mask. Wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based sanitizer.

**Resources**
- CDC - [Maximizing Fit for Cloth and Medical... Masks](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/coverings/masks/face-coverings.html)
- LACDPH - [Guidance for Cloth Face Coverings](https://lacounty.gov/health/)
- EH&S - [COVID-19 Improved Mask Protection](http://ehs.usc.edu)
- EH&S - [PPE Risk Matrix](http://ehs.usc.edu)
- EH&S - [COVID-19 Surgical Mask Use Quick Guide](http://ehs.usc.edu)