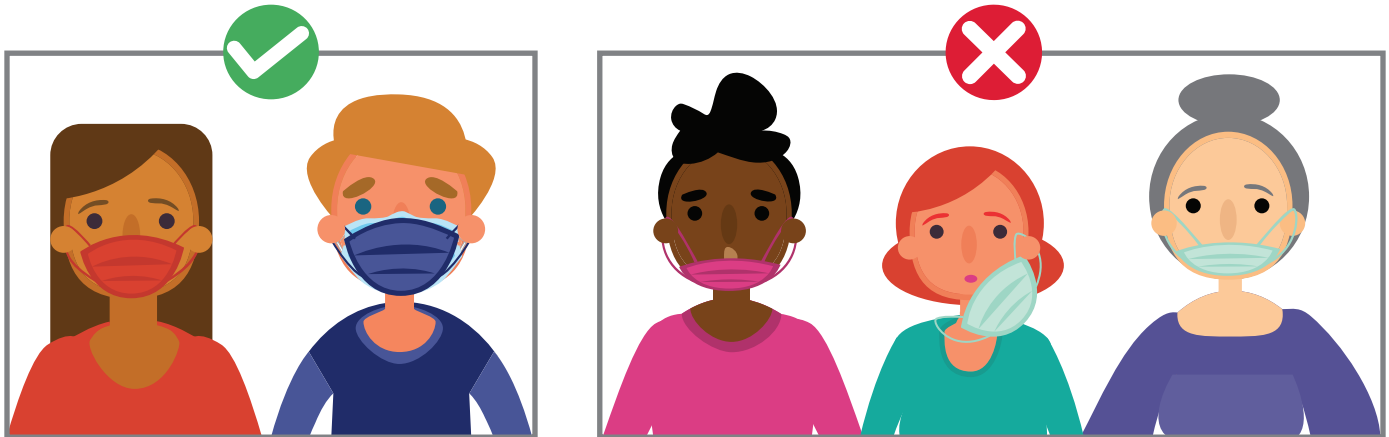# Face Masks for COVID-19

- **Masks will be required to be worn in all indoor public places unless businesses or venues implement a vaccine requirement.**

- **Everyone 2 years of age or older not fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks in all indoor public places.**

- **People with weakened immune systems should continue to wear masks even when vaccinated.**

- Cloth masks should be made from multiple layers of tightly woven fabric so that you can't see light through it. They must be cleaned before reusing.
- Disposable face masks should be replaced every day or if they become wet. They cannot be properly cleaned.
- Any type of mask should fully cover your mouth and nose.
- People under the age of two should not wear masks.
- People with certain disabilities may have to make adjustments to use masks. Reasonable accommodations can be made at the workplace for those who cannot safely wear masks.
- People who are deaf or hard of hearing, and people who interact with them should consider wearing a mask with a clear panel.

## These Masks are NOT Recommended

- Balaclava/scarves/ski mask
- Face shields or goggles worn without an acceptable face mask underneath
- Masks with openings for eating or drinking
- Masks with exhalation valves
- Shirt collar or turtlenecks pulled over the mouth and nose
- Combining two disposable face masks
- Combining a KN95 mask with any other mask

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How to Improve Mask Protection

- Wear multiple layers:
  - A cloth mask over a disposable mask, or
  - A multi-layered cloth mask.
- Use a mask with a bendable nose wire.
- Use a mask fitter.
- Make sure your mask fits snugly over your mouth and nose:
  - Check for gaps between your face and the mask.
  - Use the knot and tuck technique (knot the ear loops of your disposable mask, tuck the extra material under the edges).

Knot the ear loops of the mask where they join the edge of the mask, then fold and tuck the material that sticks out under the edges.
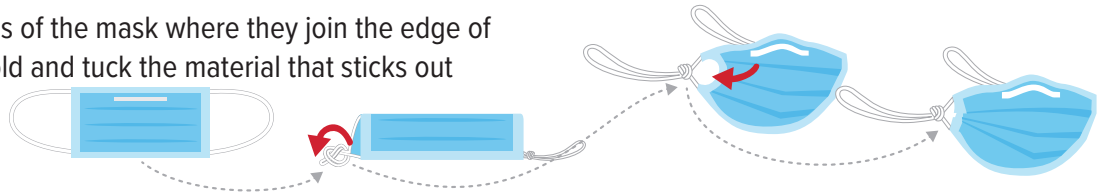
- In cold weather, wear your scarf, ski mask or balaclava over your mask.
- Having a beard makes it difficult to fit a mask. Trim your beard or wear a mask fitter or brace.
  For more ways to improve mask fit over beards see: Your Guide to Masks

Putting On Mask

- **DO** clean your hands with soap and water or if that's not available, use alcohol-based sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol, before putting on your mask.
  - Make sure the mask covers both your nose and mouth.
- **DON'T** wear your mask hanging under your nose or mouth or around your neck. You won't get the protection you need.
- **DON'T** wear the mask on top of your head, or take it off and on repeatedly. Once it is in place, leave the mask in place.

Taking Off Mask

- **DO** clean your hands with soap and water or if that's not available, use alcohol-based sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol, before taking off your mask.
- Remove your mask only touching the straps.
- Discard the mask if it is disposable. If you are reusing (cloth), place it in a paper bag or plastic bag for later.
- Wash your hands again.
- When cleaning a cloth mask, **DO** put in the washer (preferably on the hot water setting).
- Dry in dryer at high heat. When it is clean and dry, place in a clean paper or plastic bag for later use. If you live in a household with many people, you might want to label the bags with names so the masks are not mixed up.