



To protect, nurture and advance
the health of our community

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CDC PROVIDES UPDATED GUIDANCE ON HOMEMADE MASKS

On April 3, 2020 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated guidance about the use of cloth and homemade masks in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The CDC now recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas with community transmission. CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their face covering and wash hands immediately after removing. Cloth facemasks should also be cleaned/sterilized after use by washing them in a washing machine.

The Oneida County Health Department will be working with community partners to help coordinate the donation and distribution of homemade masks to populations in the community. To learn more about making and using your own homemade mask, please go to the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>).

Linda Conlon, Oneida County Health Department Director/Health Officer urges the community to continue to practice everyday preventive actions. "It is critical to emphasize that maintaining 6 feet physical distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus," Conlon added. There is an urgent need to restrict movement and stay home as much as possible. In addition, people should continue to:

- Frequently and thoroughly wash hands with soap and water
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid touching your face
- Stay home when sick
- Practice social and physical distancing
- Avoid large gatherings and crowds

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Monday– Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM

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Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you think you may have COVID-19, you should call the clinic or hospital before going. Please do not call 9-1-1; this should be reserved for those needing critical emergency attention.

OCHD is keeping track of this outbreak. We are working with our local, state, and federal partners to deal quickly and effectively when people have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been around people who have been infected with the coronavirus to make sure our community remains safe and healthy.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. This is what we know now, and information may change. To read the latest information about COVID-19 check the Oneida County Health Department website (oneidacountypublichealth.org) or Facebook page ([facebook.com/OneidaCountyHealthDepartment/](https://www.facebook.com/OneidaCountyHealthDepartment/)), the Department of Health Services (DHS) website (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

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