City of San Antonio

Advisory Regarding Public Use of Face Coverings

Potential spread of COVID-19 by pre- and asymptomatic individuals is a growing concern as we look to reduce transmission in San Antonio and Bexar County. On April 3, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommended cloth face coverings by the general public to slow the spread of COVID-19. To align with CDC and Metro Health recommendations, Mayor Ron Nirenberg issues this face covering advisory to the San Antonio community.

We recommend that all people over the age of 5 years old should wear a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth when in a public place where it is difficult to keep six feet away from other people. Coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief. Residents must continue social distancing while outside their home. **DO NOT WEAR MEDICAL MASKS or N-95 RESPIRATORS AS THEY ARE A NEEDED RESOURCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS.** The CDC recommendation recognizes that social distancing may be difficult while engaging in some essential services or activities such as visiting a pharmacy or grocery store.

Please note that face coverings are a complementary strategy to other mitigation efforts. **Face coverings are not a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick.** Face coverings may reduce face-touching, a frequent mode of transmission.

Residents must keep up the following habits while in public:

- wash your hands before you leave home and when you return,
- stay at least six feet away from others and
- avoid touching your nose or face.
- Do not use disposable masks more than three times.
- Wash reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

**This advisory applies to cloth face covering and non-medical masks. Please remember that medical masks or N-95 respirators are NOT for public use as they are in short supply and should be conserved for healthcare workers and first responders. Our healthcare workers and**
first responders on the front-line combating COVID-19 must have priority access to medical masks or other personal protective equipment.

Remember that the best protection is to stay at home.

Please visit the City of San Antonio COVID-19 website for additional information and helpful hints on the most effective way to use face coverings.