



## YATES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

417 Liberty Street, Suite 2021

Penn Yan, New York 14527

Phone: 315-536-5160

Fax: 315-536-5146

Email: [publichealth@yatescounty.org](mailto:publichealth@yatescounty.org)

<http://www.yatescountypublichealth.org>



Deborah Minor, R.N. MPH  
Public Health Director  
**For Immediate Release**

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### **CDC Recommends Use of Cloth Face Coverings amid COVID-19 Crisis**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now recommending that people voluntarily wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain – such as grocery stores and pharmacies – in order to combat the community spread of COVID-19.

According to Deborah Minor, Yates County Public Health Director, “Cloth face coverings *do not* replace social distancing. These should be considered an additional protective measure in our fight to stop the transmission of COVID-19. These coverings help to slow the spread, primarily by reducing the risk of someone giving the virus to others – especially when that someone may have the virus but does not know it.”

The CDC reports that cloth face coverings should:

- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

The recommended cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Surgical masks and respirators are in short supply and must continue to be reserved for medical first responders.

Minor states, “This CDC recommendation does not replace – but rather, it complements – our social distancing efforts. It is critical that we continue to wash our hands regularly, cover our coughs, stay at home whenever possible and maintain 6-foot social distancing in order to slow the spread of COVID-19.”

For more information on this CDC recommendation, please visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or click [here](#). Follow our Facebook page as we will be posting information on how to make your own cloth face coverings. You can also find community members that are making cloth face coverings by visiting the Finger Lakes Coronavirus Community Forum on Facebook.

Face coverings are NOT recommended for anyone:

- Younger than 2 years of age
- Who has trouble breathing
- Who is unable to remove the cover without assistance

If you have a fever, cough or trouble breathing, please call your health care provider for an assessment of your symptoms. If you feel as though you may have had exposure to COVID-19, please call Public Health at 315-536-5160.

For COVID-19 information, please visit Yates County's dedicated COVID-19 webpage, <https://www.yatescounty.org/535/COVID-19>.