



## News from Livingston County, NY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**PR-COVID19-407-01**

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

**Mount Morris, NY, April 7, 2020** — 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 Jennifer Rodriguez, Livingston County Public Health Director, “Cloth face coverings *should 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.

Rodriguez 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](#).

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 LCDOH at 585-243-7270. Call 1-877-280-6775 if you would like general information on COVID-19 or to learn how to volunteer. Livingston County Mental Health has created a help line for community members who need someone to talk to during these stressful times. This is a free and confidential service. Please call 585-243-7251, Monday – Friday from 9:00AM – 5:00PM. For COVID-19 information, please visit Livingston County’s dedicated [COVID-19 webpage](#) and join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

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