



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Dec. 15, 2020

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## MDHHS asks Michiganders to “Mask Up, Mask Right”

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is launching an initiative to not only get Michiganders to mask up, but to mask right.

“The science is now settled: Masks protect others from COVID – and they protect the wearer,” said Robert Gordon, MDHHS director. “It’s important to wear the right mask and wear it the right way. We want all Michiganders to Mask Up, Mask Right as we continue to battle the virus in our state.”

Masking right includes wearing one of three options of masks that provide stronger protection: three-layered washable cloth face coverings, medical-grade disposable masks or approved KN95 masks. It also includes wearing the approved mask correctly and having it secured over the nose and face and tightly fitting without gaps.

## Mask Up, Mask Right

<p><b>✓ Right</b> What to wear</p>  <p>Three-layered washable cloth mask</p>  <p>Three-layered medical-grade disposable mask</p>  <p>Approved KN95</p>	<p><b>✓ Right</b> How to wear</p>  <p>Secured over the nose and mouth</p>  <p>Tightly fitting without gaping</p>	<p><b>✗ Not right</b></p>  <p>Neck garter or loosely tied bandana</p>  <p>Mask with vents</p>  <p>N95 masks intended for healthcare workers</p>  <p>Face shield worn without a mask (except for individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering)</p>  <p>Noticeable gaps, holes or vents</p>
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### Need help getting a mask?

Residents can pick up a free mask from partner sites across the state, including most local DHHS offices and Community Action Agencies. Find a distribution site at [Michigan.gov/MaskUpMichigan](https://Michigan.gov/MaskUpMichigan) or call the COVID-19 hotline at 888-535-6136.



CDC has [recommended](#) the use of masks to protect the community by reducing emission of the virus and to protect the wearer by reducing inhalation. CDC cites a number of studies showing that masks have been effective. For example, one study showed that use of masks onboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt was associated with a 70% reduced risk of COVID;

another showed that, in a contact tracing investigation, those who reported wearing masks had a 70% lower risk of infection than those who did not. Published [research](#) by Beaumont Hospital in Southeast Michigan also showed that mask wearing was associated with lower levels of infection by COVID and, among those infected, lower levels of symptoms.

Bandanas, gaiters, and face shields without masks do not provide adequate protection for the wearer or others and are not recommended.

“The delivery of the first COVID-19 vaccines in Michigan means there will be an end to this pandemic,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. “However, it will take several months before we are able to have enough vaccine to widely distribute it to all Michiganders. Until then, and even for individuals who receive the vaccine, we should all be doing our part to slow the spread of this virus by wearing masks correctly, avoiding large gatherings, and washing hands.”

Residents in need of masks can pick one up from partner sites across the state, which includes most MDHHS local offices and Community Action Agencies. Find a distribution site at [Michigan.gov/MaskUpMichigan](https://Michigan.gov/MaskUpMichigan) or call the COVID-19 hotline at 888-535-6136.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://CDC.gov/Coronavirus).

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[Mask Up, Mask Right](#)