Why should I consider wearing a cloth face covering while on campus?
The University of Texas at Dallas is committed to supporting national and local efforts to minimize widespread illness in our community. To minimize the spread of COVID-19, students, faculty and staff should follow the guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In light of new data about how COVID-19 spreads, along with evidence of widespread COVID-19 illness in communities across the country, CDC recommends that people wear a cloth face covering to cover their nose and mouth in the community setting. This is to protect people around you if you are infected but do not have symptoms. A cloth face covering should be worn whenever people are in a community setting, especially in situations where you may be near people.

Do I still need to stay at least 6 feet away from people on campus if I’m wearing a cloth face covering?
Yes. Wearing cloth face coverings is an additional public health measure that our UT Dallas community members can take to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The CDC still recommends that you avoid gatherings, stay at least 6 feet away from other people (social distancing), and adhere to frequent hand cleaning and other everyday preventive actions. A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer, but it may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms.

How do I safely wear my cloth face covering?
**Wash your cloth face covering when you receive it, before wearing for the first time**

Putting your face covering on:
- Perform hand hygiene before handling your cloth face covering
- Wear the clean cloth face covering by securing it with ear loops, or ties/elastic behind your head
- Make sure it fits snugly but comfortably against the side of your face
- Make sure your hands are clean if any adjustments are needed, and touch the face covering as little as possible while you are wearing it
- Remove the cloth face covering immediately if it is restricting your breathing

Taking your face covering off:
- Perform hand hygiene before removing your cloth face covering
- Carefully remove the face covering by loosening the ties or ear loops
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when removing the face covering
- Place the used cloth face covering in a clean bag or container for storage, until reuse is needed or until it can be washed – avoid storing your used cloth face covering in clothing pockets
- Perform hand hygiene immediately after removing your cloth face covering

How often should I clean my cloth face covering?
- When it becomes soiled or dirty, wash your cloth face covering using a washing machine
- The frequency of washing is dependent on the frequency of use. It is recommended that frequently used face coverings be washed daily/per CDC guidelines
- Wash items as appropriate for the cloth material or in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions
- If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting and dry completely before storage and reuse
- Store your clean cloth face covering in a clean bag or container until it can be reused
- Containers used to store used or dirty face coverings must be cleaned prior to reuse
How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings should—

• fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
• be secured with ties or ear loops
• include multiple layers of fabric
• allow for breathing without restriction
• be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

CDC on Homemade Cloth Face Coverings

CDC 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 of significant community-based 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.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly? How regularly?

Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.

How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering?

A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a cloth face covering.

How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.