Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
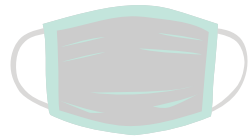
FAQs on FACE COVERINGS

WHAT IS A FACE COVERING?

A face covering helps prevent the spread of COVID-19. It covers your nose and mouth and secures to your head. Face coverings can be a cloth face covering (mask) or full face shield. Cloth face coverings should not have holes or gaps.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A FACE COVERING?

The air carries bits of the COVID-19 virus and can cause the virus to spread. Face coverings (masks) help block germs you could give to other people, or other people could give to you.

WHEN MUST I WEAR A FACE COVERING?

Marylanders over the age of 5 must wear a face covering when inside a business, work area, doctor's office, and other places people are close together. You also have to wear a face covering outside if you are not 6 feet away from other people.

There are exceptions for people with disabilities who cannot wear a face covering.

WHO MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE WEARING A FACE COVERING?

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who cannot remove the mask themselves.

Some people with disabilities may not be able to wear a mask. If someone cannot wear a mask because of their disability, they may not have to - even if it is required. They may request a reasonable accommodation.

WHAT ARE REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires reasonable accommodations be provided to people with disabilities so everyone has the same opportunities. For example:

- If a customer cannot wear a face covering, a business may provide curbside delivery, telephone appointments, or door-to-door delivery.