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THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN PASCO COUNTY URGES RESIDENTS TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDANCE FOR USE OF FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC

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PASCO COUNTY, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County is urging members of the public to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and wear cloth face coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The CDC has posted their guidance on cloth face coverings to its website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html.

According to the CDC, a "significant portion of individuals with coronavirus" do not experience symptoms. As a result, these individuals can unknowingly spread the virus to those around them.

"In light of this new evidence, 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," writes the CDC.

Cloth face coverings can help prevent those who may have COVID-19 and not know it from spreading the virus to those around them.

"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," writes the CDC. "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."

The website features a short video of U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams fashioning a homemade face covering out of common household items, as well as tips on how to wear and clean face coverings. There is also a link to an American Sign Language (ASL) video on the use of cloth face coverings for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The CDC continues to urge people to remain at home as much as possible and practice social distancing, remaining 6 feet away from all others to help prevent spread of COVID-19.

Additional prevention tips include:

- Wash your hands often.
- Keep away from people who are sick.
- Stock up on supplies.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Avoid all cruise travel and nonessential air travel.

For general information on COVID-19 in Florida, visit www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19, email covid-19@flhealth.gov or call (866) 779-6121.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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