Correct Use and Washing of Cloth Masks

COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. A cloth mask may not protect the wearer, but it may keep the wearer from spreading the virus to others.

How do I wear a cloth mask correctly?

1. Wash your hands before handling a cloth mask.
2. Place the cloth mask snugly over nose and mouth.
3. Breathe normally.
4. Keep the cloth mask on your face the entire time you’re in public.
5. Don’t put the cloth mask around your neck or up on your forehead.
6. Don’t touch the cloth mask, and, if you do, wash your hands.

How do I remove my cloth mask?

1. To remove the cloth mask, untie from behind head or unloop strings from behind ears.
2. Fold the outside corners of the cloth mask in.
3. Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing the cloth mask.
4. Wash hands after handling the cloth mask.

How do I wash a cloth mask?

- Be sure to wash your cloth mask after every wear.
- You can include your cloth mask with your regular laundry. Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the cloth mask. Use the highest heat setting and leave in the dryer until completely dry.
- By hand using a bleach solution. See instructions here. Lay flat and allow to completely dry. If possible, place the cloth mask in direct sunlight.