Masks and cloth face coverings should be handled assuming they are contaminated with the virus causing COVID-19. Face coverings should be removed without touching the inside. They should be immediately placed with dirty laundry, or stored in a plastic bag until they can be properly cleaned. Wash your hands after handling a used face covering or use hand sanitizer if hand washing is not an option. If possible, wash your face after removing a face covering. Cloth face coverings should be washed after each use. Follow CDC guidelines at go.ncsu.edu/cdclaundry.

Face coverings can be an effective means of slowing the spread of the infectious agent for many respiratory illnesses and may help slow the spread of COVID-19. Wearing a face covering does NOT provide complete protection and does not replace other ways of slowing virus spread such as:

- Staying away from public places and group gatherings
- Washing hands and using hand sanitizer often
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Practicing physical distancing

For more info, visit: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov

Updated April 13, 2020