WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
Face Coverings, Masks, and COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is recommending wearing cloth face coverings in public. Consistent with these guidelines, employees are allowed to wear masks at work. Face coverings do not eliminate the need for social distancing. Always remain at least 6 feet from other people.

Cloth Face Coverings

- Used by members of the Iowa State community who choose to voluntarily wear a face covering.
- Protects you and those around you from inadvertent exposure to respiratory droplets.
- Be careful not to touch eyes, nose, or mouth when removing and wash hands immediately afterwards.
- Used face coverings should be transported in a sealed ziplock bag and routinely washed and dried.

Medical/Surgical Face Masks*

- Used by healthcare staff and patients.
- Protect the people around you from inadvertent exposure to your respiratory droplets. They do not eliminate the need for social distancing.
- Helps ensure that people who do not realize they are infected do not spread it to others when in the close proximity of a healthcare interaction.

*medical/surgical masks are not respirators

Respirator Masks, Such as N95

- Reserved for healthcare and public safety workers.
- Protects against situations that pose a risk for high concentration of infected respiratory droplets.
- N95 masks and other respirators are in extremely short supply and must be reserved for the people who need it the most.