It is now MANDATORY for people 13 years and older to wear a face covering in Santa Barbara County.

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department has mandated that everyone 13 years and older, with no health conditions that may be compromised by wearing face coverings, wear cloth face coverings when inside a business or in line, when using public transit or a car service, when working or volunteering or when seeking medical care. This is because of evidence that people with COVID-19 can spread the disease, even when they don’t have any symptoms.

**Which face covering is right for me?**

- **N95 Respirators** are for healthcare personnel only.
- **Surgical masks** are medical face masks designed for healthcare use.
- **Cloth face coverings** such as homemade masks or bandanas will prevent you from spreading respiratory droplets when talking, sneezing, or coughing.

**How do I correctly wear a face covering?**

- The mouth and nose are fully covered.
- The covering fits snugly against the sides of the face so there are no gaps.
- You do not have any difficulty breathing while wearing the cloth face covering.
- The cloth face covering can be tied or otherwise secured to prevent slipping.
- Avoid touching your face as much as possible. Keep the covering clean.
- Use clean hands to put on and adjust. Clean hands after removing.
- Don’t share it with anyone else unless it’s washed and dried first.
- Infants and children under the age of 13 are not required to wear face coverings.
- Masks with holes or valves that allow material out should not be used.
- **It is recommended but not required to wear a face covering while engaged in outdoor exercise such as walking, hiking, bicycling or running.**

**In addition to wearing face coverings, remember to:**

- Stay home as much as possible.
- Practice social distancing.
- Clean hands often.

Additional information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/ and from the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department: https://publichealthsb.org