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MEDIA RELEASE

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Proper Use of Face Coverings is Crucial in Preventing the Spread of COVID-19

When wearing a face covering, it is important to know how to use it and clean it properly. Keep in mind; face coverings are only effective when used in combination with frequent hand washing.

The recent executive order states that “any individual able to medically tolerate a face covering must wear a covering over his or her nose and mouth—such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief—when in any enclosed public space.” The face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators but cloth face covering that can be made inexpensively. There are important steps to remember when using a face covering:

- **Step 1:** Before putting on a face covering, wash your hands or use a sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- **Step 2:** Cover your mouth and nose with the face covering and make sure there are not any gaps between your face and the covering.
- **Step 3:** Avoid touching your face covering while using it. If you touch it, wash or sanitize your hands.
- **Step 4:** To remove the face covering, grab the tie strings or elastics straps. Do not touch your face or the part of the mask that covers your face.
- **Step 5:** When you remove the face covering, contain it in a bag while waiting for it to be washed.
- **Step 6:** Immediately after removing your face covering wash or sanitize your hands.

Please remember that face coverings should not be placed on young children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

There are community agencies that have been collecting and distributing homemade face coverings. Call the following organizations to donate face coverings or arrange a pick up time: Iosco Commission on Aging in Hale (989)728-6484; LOVE Inc. in Fairview (989) 848-2020; Faith Lutheran Church in Prescott (989) 873-4506; and Ogemaw Hills Free Clinic in West Branch (989) 345-7880. For more information on face coverings, including when to wear and how to make, visit the “How to Protect Yourself” section of the CDC’s COVID-19 website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.