A facemask has two purposes:

1. To protect your nose and mouth from splashes and contact of hazardous liquids like blood, bodily fluids or chemicals.
2. To protect other people from the liquid droplets that are produced when your cough or sneeze.

A facemask does not provide respiratory protection and cannot be used in place of an N-95 or other respirator, when one is required.

Facemasks only work if you use them properly and wash your hands before and after use.

Improper use of a facemask can lead to accidental contamination of yourself or others.

Below are the proper steps for using a mask:

• Wash your hands with soap and water before putting on your mask. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
• To put on the mask, cover your mouth and nose with the mask and loop the straps around your ears. Adjust the mask to make sure there are no large gaps between your face and the mask.
• Avoid touching the outside of the mask while wearing it, because it could be contaminated. If you touch the mask while you have it on, wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
• Replace the mask with a new one if it gets wet or is damaged.
• Remove your mask by the ear straps. Do not touch the front of the mask.
• Discard the mask immediately into the trash. Do not save your mask even if it looks clean.
• Wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after throwing your mask away.
HOW TO WEAR A FACEMASK