The primary purpose of a cloth face covering is to prevent the spread of coronavirus between people in the same environment. Cloth face coverings, including gaiters, should consist of two or more layers and be worn over the mouth and nose to stop the spread of COVID-19.

DoD requires all persons to wear cloth face coverings on DOD property, installations, and facilities in public areas and work centers. Cloth face coverings should be worn at all indoor or outdoor gatherings with people who live outside your home (on or off DOD property). This is especially important when indoors.*

* For the guidance, visit https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2138340/dod-guidance-on-the-use-of-cloth-face-coverings/

Instructions for other types of Do It Yourself face covers can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html

YOU SHOULD WEAR A SURGICAL MASK:
- when a medical provider diagnoses you with COVID-19
- if you are caring for someone confirmed to have COVID-19 (both you and the patient should wear masks when in close contact)

The face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders.