

## COVID-19 Fact Sheet

# Face Covering Requirements

Because Ohioans are at high risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19, Interim Director of Health Lance D. Himes, with the support of Governor Mike DeWine, signed an order on July 23 to require the wearing of facial coverings (masks) by people who are out in public. The intent of the order is to mitigate the danger COVID-19 presents to the residents of the state.

### What is a facial covering?

A facial covering (mask) is any material that covers a person's nose, mouth, and chin.

### Where/when are face coverings are required?

- In any indoor location that is not a residence.
- Outdoors, if it is not possible to consistently maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between people who are not members of the same household.
- When waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation, a taxi, a car service, or a ride sharing vehicle. (This does not apply to private or rental vehicles in which members of a single family/household are sharing the vehicle.)

### What are the exceptions?

The requirement does not apply to people who:

- Are younger than 10 years old.
- Have a medical condition, including respiratory conditions that restrict breathing or, mental health conditions, or a disability that makes them unable to safely wear a facial covering or makes wearing one difficult.
- Are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or has another disability that requires an ability to see the mouth in order to communicate.
- Are alone in any enclosed space, such as an office, or are at least 6 feet away from all others and in an area that is not intended for use or access by the public.
- Are actively engaged in exercise in a gym or indoor facility AND there is a distance of at least 6 feet between people.
- Are actively participating in an athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under a separate Ohio Department of Health order.

- Are actively engaged in a public safety, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighting, and or emergency medical response.
- Are seated and actively consuming food or a beverage in a restaurant or bar.
- Are actively participating in broadcast communications.
- Are officiating a religious service.
- Are in a jail or prison.

The requirement also does not apply:

- If facial coverings are prohibited by law or regulation.
- If facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards.
- If facial coverings are in violation of a business's documented safety policies.
- In an industrial or manufacturing facility, if employees are separated by at least 6 feet in all directions, or by barriers in a manufacturing line or work area.
- In schools that offer kindergarten through grade 12 instruction, if they follow guidelines from the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Health.
- In child care centers, when providing family child care or in-home aid, or at day camps or after school programs licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), if they comply with current and future guidelines set forth by ODJFS and the Ohio Department of Health.

Businesses must apply exceptions to wearing a mask equally to all people.

### **What if a community has a local face covering mandate?**

The Ohio Department of Health order does not supersede any local law that is more restrictive.

*Document created July 29, 2020.*

For additional information, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

**Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.**

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019



Department of Health

Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

## PREVENTION

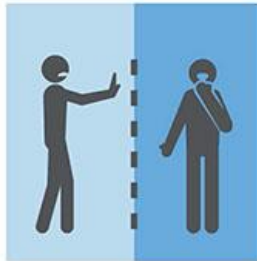
For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).



STAY HOME EXCEPT FOR WORK AND OTHER NEEDS



WEAR A FACE COVERING WHEN GOING OUT



PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING OF AT LEAST 6 FEET FROM OTHERS



SHOP AT NON-PEAK HOURS



WASH HANDS OFTEN WITH WATER AND SOAP (20 SECONDS OR LONGER)



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH WITH UNWASHED HANDS OR AFTER TOUCHING SURFACES



COVER YOUR MOUTH WITH A TISSUE OR SLEEVE WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING



CLEAN AND DISINFECT "HIGH-TOUCH" SURFACES OFTEN



DON'T WORK WHEN SICK



CALL BEFORE VISITING YOUR DOCTOR

For more information, visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)