



# What You Need to Know About Minnesota's Face Covering Requirement

People in Minnesota are required to wear a face covering in all indoor businesses and public indoor spaces, unless alone. Workers are also required to wear a face covering outdoors when social distancing is not possible. Here are some important things to know about this requirement.

It is still very important to keep 6 feet of space between people who you do not live with, even if you are wearing a face covering. Everyone should also continue to wash their hands often and stay home if sick.

## When it is required to wear a face covering

- In all indoor businesses and public indoor spaces, including when waiting outside to enter the public indoor space or business.
- Workers are also required to wear a face covering outdoors when they are not able to keep at least 6 feet of space between people.
- When riding on public transportation such as buses or trains, or in a taxi, ride-sharing vehicle, or vehicle that is being used for a business purpose.
- Some business, whether indoor or outdoor, may have additional rules for when you need to wear a face covering. You must follow those rules.

## Types of face coverings

- Types of face coverings can include a paper or disposable mask, a cloth mask, a neck gaiter, a scarf, a bandanna, or a religious face covering.
- A face covering must cover the nose and mouth completely. The covering should not be overly tight or restrictive and should feel comfortable to wear.
- Do not wear a face covering that has a valve or other openings. This can allow droplets that carry the virus to get out.
- You should not wear surgical face masks or N95 respirators unless you need to because of your job.
- For more information on why face coverings are important and how to wear them correctly, go to [Masks and face coverings \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html#masks\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html#masks).

## People who are not required to wear a face covering

- Children under age 2 years must not wear face coverings.
- Children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old are not required to wear face coverings, but are encouraged to wear a face covering when in public if they can.
- People who have medical or other health conditions, disabilities or mental health, developmental, or behavioral needs that make it difficult to tolerate wearing a face covering.
- Any person who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, sleeping, incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- Alternatives to masks such as clear face shields may be considered for those with health conditions or situations where wearing a mask is not possible.

## When a face covering can be temporarily removed

There are some times when a face covering can be removed for a short time. Here are some times when a face covering can be removed, but you can find a full list on [Face Covering Requirements and Recommendations under Executive Order 20-81 \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html).

- While eating or drinking, if you can stay 6 feet away from others who are not in your household.
- When someone asks to verify your identity, such as when ordering an alcoholic beverage or entering certain events.
- When swimming or doing another activity where the face covering will get wet.
- While communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing, or who has a medical condition, disability, or mental health condition that makes communication with that person while wearing a mask difficult. You should still stay 6 feet away from the person.
- When participating in organized sports or physical exercise where you are breathing heavily and wearing a face covering would be difficult.

### MORE INFORMATION ON THE FACE COVERING REQUIREMENT

For more information about the Executive Order, including specific industry rules (for example, personal care, schools, and child care), penalties and enforcement, and requirements for businesses, see:

- See Executive Order 20-81 available at [Executive Orders from Governor Walz \(https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp\)](https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp).
- [Frequently Asked Questions About the Requirement to Wear Face Coverings \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecoverfaq.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecoverfaq.html).



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