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City Face Covering Requirement FAQ



Effective immediately, every person in the City of Tucson over the age of five (5) is required to cover their nose and mouth with a face covering when in a public setting where continuous physical distancing is difficult or impossible.

Adults accompanying minor children who are five (5) years of age or older shall use reasonable efforts to have children to wear face coverings when they are in a public setting.

Businesses whose employees interact with the public must require employees to wear face coverings.

This requirement is put in place under [Ordinance Number 11766](#) and will closely track Pima County's resolution passed on 6 /19 at the Pima County Board of Supervisors' meeting which will be posted here when made available.

Please continue reading the FAQ's below to learn more.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a face covering?

- A face covering is any well-secured fiber or cloth (like a bandana, mask, or scarf) that covers your nose and mouth.
 - It cannot be a mask that incorporates a one-way valve.
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Why do we need to wear face coverings?

- Cloth face coverings may prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading respiratory droplets when talking, sneezing, or coughing. If everyone wears a cloth face covering when out in public, such as going to the grocery store, the risk of exposure to COVID-19 can be reduced for the community.
 - Since people may spread the virus before symptoms start, or even if people never have symptoms, wearing a cloth face covering may protect others around you. Face coverings worn by others may protect you from getting the virus from people carrying the virus.
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Who must wear a face covering?

- Every person over the age of five (5) must wear a face covering when outside their home if unable to maintain continuous physical distancing, meaning at least 6 feet of distance from others.
 - Examples include walking on a busy street, going to pharmacies and grocery stores, or going to the doctor.
 - You must wear a face covering at all times when riding public transportation even if you can maintain distance from others.
 - If you live in a facility that has shared kitchens, bathrooms, or other common spaces, wear a face covering when you leave your apartment or room.
 - People who are sick should wear a face covering while at home if they cannot maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others, and at all times whenever they leave home.
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Do children need to wear a face covering?

- Children over the age of five (5) should wear a face covering.
 - Adult caretakers accompanying children who are five (5) years of age or older should make reasonable efforts to have the children wear face coverings when they are in a public setting. They should not be overly concerned with any enforcement actions being taken against them if children are reluctant to wear or remove face coverings.
 - Small children are more likely to touch their face covering, so caretakers should wash children's hands or apply hand sanitizer often.
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I have a health problem that makes it hard for me to wear a face covering. Do I still need to wear one?

- An exemption is provided in the proclamation for any person who cannot wear a face covering because of a medical condition, mental health condition or developmental disability, or who is unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
 - A person who cannot wear a face covering because of a medical condition is not required to produce medical documentation of the condition, provided that an employer may require such documentation from an employee in accordance with state and federal law.
 - If you have a health issue that makes you unable to tolerate a face covering, you do not need to wear one.
 - This makes practicing physical distancing and hand hygiene even more essential.
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Do I need to wear a face covering when I am exercising?

- No, persons exercising outdoors, or while walking or exercising with other persons of the same household, as long as physical distancing from others is maintained do not have to wear a face covering.
 - Persons are not expected to wear a mask while swimming. Physical distancing should be adhered to as much as possible in pool settings.
 - Persons exercising indoors must wear a face covering when it is difficult or impossible to maintain physical distancing.
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What do I do if I go out to eat?

- Restaurant patrons do not have to wear a mask when they are eating or drinking at their table or seating area.
 - Restaurants should be making every effort to provide physical distancing in their seating areas.
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When do workers need to wear a face covering?

- Workers must wear a face covering at work if they cannot maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others.
 - Employers are strongly encouraged to provide face coverings to employees who are unable to obtain one.
 - Your employer may have additional requirements as to when a face covering, or other protection, is needed.
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I had COVID-19 but am better now. Do I still need to wear a face covering?

- Yes. The City of Tucson requirement to wear a face covering applies even if you had COVID-19 and have recovered.
 - The scientific evidence is unclear at this time if having recovered from COVID-19 provides future immunity. Why chance it?
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What type of face covering is better — paper/ fiber / or cloth?

- Paper, fiber, or cloth face coverings are fine, as long as the mask covers your nose and mouth.
 - The goal is to stop the spread of droplets from the nose and mouth.
 - Paper or simple surgical/medical masks are designed for one-time use.
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How often do I need to wash my face covering?

- If you are using a cloth face covering, we recommend washing once a day by hand or machine using hot water and detergent.
 - The face covering should be fully dry before using.
 - People should try to have a few face coverings so they can rotate for washing.
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How long can I use a paper face covering?

- You can continue to use a paper face covering until it becomes damaged, dirty or wet.
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Are there precautions I should take with my face covering?

- Using face coverings incorrectly can spread germs. For this reason, it is important to properly wear, store and dispose of face coverings by doing the following:
 - Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, every time you put on and take off your face covering. If you are unable to clean your hands, be very careful not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
 - Do not put face coverings where others can touch them or where germs trapped in your face covering can touch other surfaces, such as countertops or your kitchen table.
 - Do not throw your face covering loose in a bag or backpack. Keep a plastic bag with you to store your face covering if you will be taking it off when outside your home.
 - Properly dispose of used paper face coverings in the garbage. Do not throw single-use face coverings or disposable gloves on the street.
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How will this requirement be enforced?

- Enforcement of this requirement will focus on educating and working to promote the mitigation of the spread of COVID-19.
 - A person violating this requirement shall be notified of the provisions of the requirement and given an opportunity to comply.
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Info Pages and Printable Information

- [CDC Cloth Face Covering PDF](#) English
 - [CDC Cloth Face Covering PDF](#) Spanish
 - [CDC How To Wear Your Face Covering PDF](#) English
 - [CDC How To Wear Your Face Covering PDF](#) Spanish
 - [CDC Page On Cloth Face Coverings](#) English
 - [CDC Page on Cloth Face Coverings](#) Spanish
 - [CDC How To Wear Your Face Covering Page](#) English
 - [CDC How To Wear Your Face Covering Page](#) Spanish
 - [CDC How To Wash Your Face Covering Page](#) English
 - [CDC How To Wash Your Face Covering Page](#) Spanish
 - [CDC How To Make Your Own Cloth Face Covering](#) English
 - [CDC How to Make Your Own Cloth Face Covering](#) Spanish
 - [Pima County Health Department Face Coverings Page](#)
 - [Pima County Health Department COVID-19 Main Page](#)
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