



Roadmap to Recovery: Face Coverings

APRIL 24, 2020

Face Covering Guidance

The Yolo County's Health Officer has issued an order that requires face coverings be worn when in public with enforcement beginning April 27, 2020. The Shelter in Place order remains in effect and continues to require people to stay at home as much as possible and maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet from others.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

On April 24, 2020, the Yolo County Public Health Officer issued an order requiring face coverings when in public. The purpose of this order is to reduce the potential spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and thus reduce the impact of COVID-19 on public health.

With restrictions anticipated to gradually relax over time, this order was implemented as a preventative health measure to reduce the spread of illness as more people are out in public. As COVID-19 can be spread by people who are not showing symptoms, face coverings, when combined with physical distancing and hand washing, may prevent the spread of the virus to others when going outside for essential activities.



Although wearing a face covering is one tool for reducing the spread of COVID-19, doing so is not a substitute for sheltering in place, physical distancing of at least 6 feet, or frequent hand washing.

FACE COVERINGS

A "face covering" means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers the nose and mouth. A face covering may be factory made, handmade, or improvised from ordinary household materials. Face coverings can be made of a variety of cloth materials, such as bandanas, scarves, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

Members of the public **should not** purchase medical grade masks, such as N95 and surgical masks, as they are in short supply and need to be reserved for health care providers and first responders.

Face Coverings Should:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

What Not to Use

The following do not qualify as a face covering, and do not comply with the order:

- Halloween or plastic masks
- Ski masks with holes for the nose or mouth
- Masks that have a one-way valve designed for easier breathing (the valves are often a raised plastic disk about the size of a quarter, on the front or side of the mask). Holes or one-way valves allow droplets out of the mask, putting others nearby at risk.

WHEN ARE YOU REQUIRED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING?

Face Covering Required	Face Covering Not Required
Waiting in line to go inside a store	At home. But if you or someone at home is sick, you can use a face covering to reduce exposure.
Shopping at a store or picking up food	In your car alone or if you're only with members of your household
On public transportation (or waiting for it)	Exercising outdoors, like walking, hiking, bicycling, or running. You must still comply with social distancing and have a face covering readily accessible.
In a taxi or rideshare vehicle	If it will create a safety or health hazard at work.
Seeking healthcare	If advised not to by your healthcare provider.
Going into facilities allowed to stay open, like government buildings	Children under 2 must not wear a facial covering. They may suffocate.
While working an essential job that interacts with the public	For additional information on who is not required to wear a face covering, see the next page.

PLEASE NOTE: You **will not** be allowed to go into a business or public transportation if you are not wearing a face covering. It is recommended that you have a face covering with you at all times when you go out. It should be readily accessible when exercising, even if you're not wearing it at that moment. There might be times where you cannot avoid being around other people.

BUSINESSES

With the exception of healthcare operations (which are subject to their own regulations and policies regarding face coverings) all essential businesses (including entities and organizations with workers engaged in Essential Infrastructure work, Minimum Basic Operations, or Essential Government Functions) **must require** their employees, contractors, owners and volunteers to wear a face covering at the workplace and when performing work off-site any time the employee, contractor, owner or volunteer is:

- interacting in person with any member of the public;
- working in any space visited by members of the public, such as reception areas, grocery store or pharmacy aisles, service counters, public restrooms, cashier and checkout areas, waiting rooms, service areas, and other spaces used to interact with the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;
- working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
- working in or walking through common areas such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities; or
- in any room or enclosed area when other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present.

Similarly, if you operate a **taxi, rideshare vehicle, or private town car**, you must always wear a face covering even if no one else is in the vehicle with you. This will avoid breathing droplets that could contaminate areas where customers will sit and touch.



For clarity, a face covering is **not required when a person is in a personal office** (a single room) or other space in the workplace at times when others outside of that person's household are not present and as long as the public does not regularly visit the space in the workplace. In other words, a worker is not required to wear a face covering if that individual is alone and in a space not regularly visited by the public. However, that individual must put on a face covering at all times when essential work prevents social distancing, such as when coworkers are nearby (i.e., within six feet), when being visited by a client/customer, and anywhere members of the public or other coworkers are frequently present.

In addition, a **business must also take reasonable measures**, such as posting signs, to remind their customers and the public of the requirement that they wear a face covering while inside of or waiting in line to enter the business, facility, or location. Businesses must take reasonable steps to prohibit any member of the public who is not wearing a face covering from entering and must not serve that person if those efforts are unsuccessful and seek to remove that person.

WHAT GROUPS DO NOT HAVE TO WEAR A FACE COVERING?

Children

Children under 2 years old **must not wear** a face covering because of the risk of suffocation.



Children 2 years and older should be encouraged to wear a mask when around others closer than 6 feet. When they do, they must be supervised by an adult. Supervision may look different based on the age and maturity of the child. For some children, having a discussion may be enough. For younger children, parents and caretakers should be present during use by the child. Parents and caregivers should use their judgement.

Those with Certain Health Conditions

If you have documentation showing a medical professional has told you not to wear a face covering, you do not have to wear one. Anyone who has trouble breathing, or is not able to take off a face covering without help, should not wear one. If you have a chronic condition, you should get documentation from a medical professional.

If it will create a safety hazard for you at work (under established health and safety guidelines) by wearing a face covering, you do not have to wear one.

If you have a physical disability that prevents you from wearing a face covering, you do not have to wear one.

If you are deaf and use face and mouth movements as part of communication, you can remove your mask while signing.

ENFORCEMENT

The success of this order depends upon voluntary compliance by individuals and community acceptance of its requirements. Individual violators are unlikely to be cited, with enforcement directed instead at non-complying businesses and other enterprises. Despite this, through voluntary compliance, all individuals have an opportunity to contribute to public health and the welfare of our community.

Individuals that choose not to wear face coverings when required by this order may encounter difficulties such as being refused access to public transit and essential businesses. Accordingly, individual compliance with this order is essential to successfully performing many basic activities—such as shopping for groceries and other necessary supplies—and is expected of all community members.

FACE COVERING MAINTENANCE AND CREATION

You Can Make Your Own Face Covering

There are several options for face coverings, as long as they cover the nose and mouth. Face coverings can be made of a variety of cloth materials, such as bandanas, scarves, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels. The CDC has simple instructions on how to make your own face covering that can be located here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

Keep it Clean

Face coverings should be washed frequently. Ideally, wash them after each use and have a dedicated laundry bag or bin. Always wash your hands, or use hand sanitizer, before and after touching your face or face coverings. The CDC has instructions on how to wear and clean your face covering at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

GLOVES

Wearing gloves is not recommended under this order as a prevention measure. Washing your hands often throughout the day and regularly cleaning surfaces you touch often, like doorknobs and countertops, is a better way to prevent infection.

RESOURCES

Yolo County

<https://yolocounty.org/coronavirus>

<https://yolocounty.org/coronavirus-roadmap>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>