

## Emergency Public Health Order 20-005 Requiring Face Coverings Frequently Asked Questions July 14, 2020

### What does this Order mean?

It means that when you are outside of a private residence in Jefferson County, including indoor and outdoor spaces, you must wear a face covering if social distancing (6 ft.) cannot be maintained from people outside your household.

Public spaces where individuals are required to wear a face covering include but are not limited to:

- County and municipal buildings
- Places of worship
- Grocery stores
- Shopping malls
- Restaurants, except when seated at a table to eat or drink
- Hair and nails salons
- Schools
- Retail shops such as Lowes, Home Depot, Walgreens, Target, Walmart, etc.
- Group activities – whether indoors or outside – where a 6 ft. distance cannot be maintained from people outside your household

### Why should I wear a face covering/How does it help prevent the virus from spreading?

Face coverings 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 when going to the grocery store, the risk of exposure to COVID-19 can be reduced for the community. Since people can spread the virus before symptoms start, or even if people never have symptoms, wearing a cloth face covering can protect others around you.

### I have a medical condition that makes it difficult for me to wear a mask. Am I still required to wear one?

Face coverings should not be worn by anyone who has medical conditions (whether visible or not) that prevent them from wearing it or anyone who is unable to remove it without assistance.

Some people with hearing impairments may use lip-reading to understand others. While PHO 20-005 provides an exemption to allow communication with those individuals who are hearing impaired, the University of Colorado's Center for Inclusive Design and Excellence created DIY clear mask designs, which support lipreading visibility. [Download instructions here](#). While not required, we strongly encourage any individuals in the hearing-impaired community to consider using a clear mask design such as the University of Colorado's design.

### Should children wear a face mask?

Any child aged four (4) years or less is not required to wear a face covering. Beginning at age five (5), children must wear a face covering. Children must be supervised continuously while wearing a face covering. **Children under three (3) years of age should not wear a face covering due to the risk of suffocation.**

**Do I need any documentation if I am exempt from the Order?**

No, not to enter a business where a face covering would otherwise be required. However, if you cannot wear a face covering at work where one would otherwise be required, your employer may request documentation from you.

**Will this Order apply to schools?**

Yes, this Order currently applies to schools. However, JCPH will work with Jefferson County Public Schools and private schools in Jefferson County as needed to further refine when masks will be required at school.

**Where can I get a face covering/mask?**

Face coverings can be purchased at local retailers and online, or they can be handmade or even made from common household items such as scarves, bandanas, t-shirts or towels. Instructions for making homemade masks can be found at the [Colorado Mask Project](#).

**If I don't wear a face covering, can a business turn me away?**

Yes. Businesses must require non-medical mask wearing by the general public. However, some people may be subject to an exemption (whether visible or not) that prevents them from wearing a face covering. Only those individuals that are exempt as described in the Order are not required to wear a face covering.

**How do I wear a face covering?**

The face covering should fit snugly, but comfortably over your chin, mouth and nose. It should not have any gaps where it sits on the face and allow for easy breathing. The face covering should stay in place at all times until it can be safely removed. [Follow this easy guide](#) for how to safely wear a face covering. [Get more tips here](#).

**How do I clean it?**

Wash your face covering routinely after use. A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a face covering. Alternatively, face coverings may be cleaned by handwashing it in warm water with antimicrobial soap.

**Are there signs businesses are required to post at each entrance?**

Yes. Businesses must post on all entrances a sign which states that, pursuant to Jefferson County Public Health Order 20-005, no individual may enter the facility without wearing a face covering unless a specific exception applies.

JCPH has provided a PDF copy of the sign for businesses to print out and post on their entrances. [The PDF is available here](#).