



[Executive Order 20-81](#) - Face Coverings FAQ

On July 22, 2020, Governor Walz issued Executive Order 20-81, which states:

Beginning on Friday, July 24, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., Minnesotans must wear a face covering in indoor businesses and indoor public settings. Workers must also wear face coverings outdoors when it is not possible to maintain social distancing. When leaving home, Minnesotans are strongly encouraged to have a face covering with them at all times to be prepared to comply with the requirements of this Executive Order.

What is a “face covering” as defined by Executive Order 20-81?

A “face covering” must cover the nose and mouth completely, and can include a paper or disposable face mask, a cloth face mask, a scarf, a bandanna, a neck gaiter, or a religious face covering. The mask can be made from a variety of materials.

Schools are discouraged from using medical grade masks. Employees who are requesting to use an N-95 Mask will be required to complete the following form: [Voluntary Respirator Use Acknowledgement](#).

How do I wear a mask or face covering?



When putting a mask or face-covering on:

- Ensure it is properly laundered prior to each use;
- If desired, insert a filtering-medium into the pocket (optional);
- Properly position (over your mouth and nose) and secure it;
- Adjust the metal noseband, if provided; and
- Wash your hands after the mask or face-covering is secured

When taking a mask or face-covering off:

- Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes;
- Remove and dispose of the filter, if used; and
- Immediately launder the mask after each use.

Wearing a mask enhances the effectiveness of other measures like physical distancing, handwashing and staying home when ill, it does not negate or diminish their use.

It is important to remember that face coverings protect those around you, so it is important to wear your face covering whenever lip visibility is not crucial to classroom learning.

Can students and staff wear face shields instead of face coverings?

Students and staff have flexibility to wear face shields instead of face coverings to allow visibility of facial expressions and lip movements for speech perception, in certain situations. These situations include:

- For students in kindergarten through grade 8 when wearing a face covering is otherwise problematic for the student.
- Students who are unable to tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, behavioral, or medical condition.
- Teachers of all grades when a face covering would impede the educational process.
- Staff providing direct support student services when a face covering would interfere with the services provided.

When can I remove my face covering?

All staff, students, and others in schools may temporarily remove their masks when alone in these circumstances:

- Alone at an office space, classroom, vehicle or workspace who do not have person-to-person interaction;
- Communal workspaces (desks or cubicles) that have barriers such as plexiglass or a wall between employees that are above face level;
- Engaging in physical activity (physical education, recess, sports);



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- While eating or drinking;
 - Activities involving singing, acting, public speaking, or playing musical instruments;
 - Receiving a service that cannot be performed with a mask, including nursing, medical or personal care services.

Do I have to wear my mask outdoors?

Masks are strongly recommended outdoors when it is not possible to maintain social distancing.

Who does not have to wear face coverings?

- 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 do so reliably in compliance with CDC guidance.
- Persons 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. Requests for accommodation must be made to the Human Resources office.
- Any person who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, sleeping, incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- Persons at their workplace when wearing a face covering would create a safety hazard to the person or others as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- Alternatives to masks such as clear face shields may be considered for those with health conditions or situations where wearing a mask is problematic.

Will the district provide face coverings?

- The district will provide one cloth face covering to each employee upon request.
- Positions that require face shields or transparent face coverings will be provided as identified by specific departments.
- The district will have disposable face coverings available for students and visitors upon request.

What does the science state and how does Minnesota compare to other state procedures?

Following recommendations by public health experts, Minnesota joins more than two dozen other states that instituted mask mandates of some form. Several Minnesota cities also have previously adopted requirements. Minnesotans will need to follow the most restrictive mandate.

Resources

[Mask FAQ from MDH](#)

[MDH Fall Planning Guidance for Schools](#) (updated July 22, 2020)

[Stay Safe Minnesota](#)

[DOL/OSHA- Face Coverings](#)

[MDH Mask Do's and Don'ts](#)

[MDH Videos for COVID-19 Response](#) (for other languages and a transcript.)

[Masks and face coverings](#)

[Facemasks and Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)

[CDC: Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-1](#)