



Missoula City-County Board of Health Rule
Face Coverings Required During COVID-19 Pandemic

Revised October 15, 2020

1. **Purpose:** To reduce the spread of the pandemic disease COVID-19 by increasing use of face coverings among people in indoor public settings as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
2. **Authority:** This Directive is a Rule promulgated by the Missoula City-County Board of Health pursuant to §50-2-116, MCA.
3. **Applicability:** The requirements in this rule and order are in addition to and do not replace requirements for businesses and other entities that have been issued by the Governor of Montana or the Missoula City-County Health Officer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This rule and order shall be in effect until revoked or revised by the Missoula City-County Health Board.
4. **Definitions:**
 - A. **Business** means a for-profit or non-profit entity which has employees or volunteers. The term “business” includes, but is not limited to, retail stores, grocery stores, food and beverage establishments, public lodging, personal care providers, medical providers, pharmacies, gyms, pools, fitness services, museums and theaters, indoor recreational or entertainment facilities, gas stations, repair and service providers, non-profit organizations, realty services, legal services, transportation services, and ride sharing services.
 - B. **Enhanced Face Shield** means a face shield that has an additional fabric cowl or barrier attached to the bottom and sides so that it provides more respiratory droplet control than a standard face shield. Examples of acceptable enhanced face shields are available at <https://www.missoulacounty.us/home/showdocument?id=72494>.
 - C. **Face Covering** means a fabric, paper, or disposable face covering that covers the nose and the mouth and which does not have an exhalation valve. The term includes medical-grade masks. The term does not include a standard face shield, but does include an enhanced face shield.
 - D. **Indoor space open to the public** means an indoor space, whether publicly owned or privately owned, where the public has access by right or invitation, express or implied, whether by payment of money or not. In addition, “indoor spaces open to the public” include, but are not limited to, lobbies, common areas, elevators, bathrooms, meeting rooms and other spaces where people gather. This term includes all modes of public or commercial transportation. The term does not include private residences not open to the public.
5. **Businesses, Government Offices and Other Indoor Spaces Open to the Public**
 - A. A business, government office or person/corporate entity responsible for an indoor space open to the public shall:

- a. Require employees, contractors, volunteers, customers, and visitors to wear a face covering within the building, and when entering and exiting, and within a shared vehicle, except as allowed in Section 6.
- b. Require employees working in places of residence to wear a face covering when other people are present.
- c. Provide face coverings to employees and volunteers.
- d. Provide accommodations for employees, contractors, customers and visitors if required by State and federal disabilities laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which protects people with disabilities from discrimination in employment and requires employers to engage in the interactive process for accommodations.
- e. Post clearly visible signs at entry points that state “Mask or face covering use required for ages five and older.”

6. Exceptions to When Face Coverings Must be Worn.

- A. A face covering is not required for employees, contractors or volunteers when the public is not present and they can maintain six (6) or more feet of distance from other people.
- B. A face covering is not required when an individual is fully separated from other people by a protective barrier, such as when working alone in a separate office. A plexiglass shield that provides only partial protection between the public and an employee does not negate the requirement to wear a face covering.
- C. Individuals under the age of five are not required to wear a face covering, and should not wear a face covering if they cannot remove the face covering without help. Children under the age of 2 should not wear a face covering.
- D. A face covering is not required while eating or drinking.
- E. A face covering is not required when engaged in an activity that makes wearing a face covering physically impractical, such as when receiving a personal care service that makes wearing a face covering impossible, or unsafe, such as during strenuous physical exercise or when swimming.
- F. A person may remove their face covering for the purpose of receiving medical or dental evaluation, diagnosis, or treatment.
- G. A person may remove their face covering when giving a speech, or when engaged in a cultural, musical, or theatrical performance for an audience, provided that the audience is separated by at least 25 feet from the performers.

7. **Effective Date.** This Board rule is effective immediately upon passage by the Missoula City-County Board of Health.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

[ADA and Face Mask Policies](#)

[CDC About Cloth Face Coverings](#)

[CDC How to Make Cloth Face Coverings](#)

[Enhanced Face Covering Clarification](#)

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