

MKE Cares - Mask Ordinance | COVID-19 | FAQ

1. Are masks required in the City of Milwaukee?

- Yes. On July 13, 2020, the Milwaukee Common Council adopted an [ordinance](#) requiring that all persons wear face coverings in public spaces, indoors and outdoors. The ordinance goes into effect Thursday, July 16, 2020 and will be enforced throughout the duration of the Moving Milwaukee Forward health and safety order. We are currently in Phase 4. Please refer to the Order for details specific to each sector (milwaukee.gov/MMFS)

2. Is the City of Milwaukee Health Department distributing masks?

- The City of Milwaukee Health Department under resolution 200409, approved on July 13, 2020, was directed to establish a program to distribute masks to any City resident that does not have one upon request. The City of Milwaukee Health Department will coordinate purchasing and distribution of free masks for the community. The Health Department will partner with other city entities including but not limited to the Milwaukee Police and Fire Departments, Public Library, and Community Development Block Grant neighborhood service programs for access. Additionally, a comprehensive community mask access plan will be developed by 7/31/2020 by the health department and vetted by the Board of Health.

3. Where can I find information on face mask distribution sites:

- In addition to the face masks distributed by the City of Milwaukee Health Department, Fiserv Forum serves as the distribution site for 2.5 million non-surgical face masks for MaskUpMKE, a Milwaukee initiative that benefits the medical and nonprofit community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Do I need to wear a face covering or mask every time I go outside?

- Our ordinance requires masks outdoors when 6-foot social distancing cannot be achieved. We also have opted for self-enforcement here, meaning we hope people will use their best judgement to comply outdoors. We encourage our community members to be outside as much as possible even as temperatures fluctuate. We know that the outdoors are great for children and studies show that the virus spreads differently outdoors.
- The CDC does give general guidance on mask wearing. We know that the more people who wear masks, the better we are all protected.
- Any person 3 years old or older in the city of Milwaukee "shall have possession of a face covering when the person leaves home or other place of residence."
- [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html)
- In regards to any person with a disability preventing them from wearing a mask, there is an exemption written into the ordinance. Persons who fall into the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance for those who should not wear face coverings due to a medical condition, mental health condition, developmental disability, or for whom no other accommodation can be offered under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- Childcare centers can apply for an exemption with the MHD if they can demonstrate strong safety practices.

5. Do I need to wear a mask inside if I live in an apartment building (or any location with more than one apartment)?

- Everyone over the age of 3 years old who lives in an apartment building or location with more than one apartment should maintain proper physical distancing (also referred to as "social distancing") in all common spaces by maintaining at least 6 feet between themselves and others. If you are not able to be at least 6 feet from others, then you must wear a mask in these common spaces, which include:
 - Lobby
 - Hallways
 - Elevators
 - Stairwells
 - Laundry rooms
 - Garage or parking lots
 - Walkways
 - Yards
 - Other common outdoor and indoor areas shared by more than one apartment/townhouse when 6 feet of separation cannot reliably and consistently be maintained.

6. What if I am unable to wear a mask due to a preexisting health condition or physical or mental disability?

If you are unable to wear a mask due to an underlying health condition, or a physical or mental disability (that prevents you from breathing properly or prohibits you from putting on and taking off your mask properly), please do NOT wear a mask. This includes people who:

- Are 2 years old or younger
- Have trouble breathing
- Are unconscious, incapacitated, or not able to remove the mask without assistance.
- If you cannot wear a mask and need or want to go outside or to a place of business, please take important physical distancing precautions:
 - Maintain a safe separation of at least 6 feet from others while outside, as well as inside any office or other building.
- Avoid crowds of any size.
- Try to visit grocery stores and pharmacies when they are less crowded
- Persons who fall into the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance for those who should not wear face coverings due to a medical condition, mental health condition, developmental disability, or for whom no other accommodation can be offered under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

7. How do I properly wear a cloth face covering or mask?

- All 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 (cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 5, persons who have trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance).
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.
- Be frequently washed using a washing machine with detergent and hot water and dried on a hot cycle. They can also be hand washed with soap and warm water, and left to dry.
- After wearing your face mask, you should remove it carefully, avoiding touching your nose, eyes, or mouth until the face covering has been properly disposed of or placed carefully away to be washed and you should immediately wash your hands after removal.

8. Should I wear a face mask or covering while I exercise?

- Yes! Everyone is required to wear a mask, even to exercise. If you are exercising and need to remove your face covering to breathe adequately, make sure no one is near you before removing it. Be sure to keep the face covering readily available so you can put it back on quickly and properly if someone comes within 6 feet of you.
- It's also important for you to stay at least 6 feet away from others while you are exercising outside. Only engage in types of exercise that allow you to keep a 6-foot physical distance from others and that don't require shared equipment or close contact with others.
- Cloth masks seem to allow people to breathe easier, especially while exercising, as they are more thin than other varieties.

9. What precautions do I need to take when removing my face mask or covering?

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water every time you put on and take off the face covering. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when you remove the face covering.
- Do not put a used face covering in places where others can touch them or where germs trapped in your face covering can touch other surfaces, such as counter tops or a kitchen table.
- Do not throw your face covering loose in a bag or backpack. Keep a paper or plastic bag with you to store your face covering if you will be taking it off when outside the house.

10. How often should I wash my face mask or covering?

- It is recommended that you wash your face covering once a day by hand or machine using detergent. The face covering should be fully dry before using it again.
- Disposable "procedure" masks cannot be washed, but may be used in a 5-7-day rotation to allow viral particles to become non-viable on the outer surface of the mask.

11. My organization wants to help make masks - how do we do that?

- MaskUpMKE is an effort to establish one central place for organizations and people in the City of Milwaukee to request handmade cloth face masks that are being sewn by local volunteers. This is a collaboration between many community partners.
- See the questions below for how you or your organization can give or get mask(s). Other sewing groups may join. Please email the City of Milwaukee Health Department at ASKMHDCOVID19@milwaukee.gov for more information.

12. I sew masks - where can I donate them?

- Log Cabin Sewing Company: We have been called to help! Join the Cause to Protect those that Help by Sewing Fabric Face Masks.
 - We have now created a group of volunteers that are creating approved face masks for vetted local agency needs here in SE Wisconsin.
 - 12520 W Hampton Ave., Butler, WI 53007, US
 - +1 262-202-8765
 - crafterperson@logcabinsewingcompany.com
- The Masked Sewists for SE Wisconsin - Can be found on Facebook
- MaskUp is an effort to establish one central place for organizations and people in the City of Milwaukee to request handmade cloth face masks that are being sewn by local volunteers. If you or anyone you know would like to sew masks and donate them, please contact ASKMHDCOVID19@milwaukee.gov for assisting in coordinating this effort.

13. My organization needs masks - how can we get them?

- If your organization is in need of masks, please submit your request to ASKMHDCOVID19@milwaukee.gov
- Someone will be in touch with you directly.

14. I need a face covering - where can I get one?

- Please check with your local pharmacy, grocery store, or other box store.

15. Is it possible for me to make my own face covering?

- You can make your face covering easily at home by using a scarf, bandana or other cotton cloth. There are a number of easy "do it yourself" videos and instructions to help you make your own cloth face covering at home, including:
- The CDC website has a few patterns, including one that involves a coffee filter and another that requires no sewing — just scissors and the willingness to sacrifice a T-shirt! Surgeon General Jerome Adams released a video of himself making a mask out of cloth and rubber bands.
- A simple no-sew mask that has a bridge for your nose, which can help keep your glasses from fogging up.
- There are many quiz sites online that may help determining what mask types may work for you such as: playbuzz.com/larak10/a-who-is-your-mask-and-the-person-behind-it or quizony.com/what-mask-do-you-wear/index.html. Answer a few questions to find an easy, no-sew mask you can make and feel comfortable wearing.

- Homemade cloth masks can be found online. Look for ones made of cotton. If you order online, places like Etsy, which you can filter by location, allow you to support someone local and get a delivery more quickly.
- Residents who already have masks and/or the resources at home to make cloth masks are encouraged to defer supplies to those residents and families who are most in need.

16. Other Local Health Department (LHD) mask order:

- Dane County issued emergency order in effect 7/13/20 at 8:00 a.m.

17. How is the ordinance enforced?

- The owner or operator of any building open to the public shall ensure all persons present in their building comply with the face covering requirements.
- The owner or operator of any building open to the public has the right to refuse entry or service to any person for failure to comply.
- Any owner or operator of a building open to the public that permits a person to violate in their building open to the public shall upon conviction, pay a fine between \$50 and not more than \$500.
- The Commissioner of Health and city attorney are authorized to pursue license revocation or a court order closing a building open to the public in accordance with state and local law for failing to require persons present to abide.

18. Does the mask mandate cover weddings as well?

- Masks ARE required at weddings just like at a restaurant.

19. I was told by a public venue that they will not follow the mandate or enforce it.

Are businesses exempt in wearing masks if they choose?

- Businesses/operators of public venues are not exempt from the mask ordinance.
- The owner or operator of any building open to the public shall ensure all persons present in their building comply with the face covering requirements.
- The owner or operator of any building open to the public has the right to refuse entry or service to any person for failure to comply.
- Any owner or operator of a building open to the public that permits a person to violate in their building open to the public shall upon conviction, pay a fine between \$50 and not more than \$500.
- The Commissioner of Health and city attorney are authorized to pursue license revocation or a court order closing a building open to the public in accordance with state and local law for failing to require persons present to abide.