

City of Columbus Mask Requirement FAQ

What does the City of Columbus mask order require?

All individuals in Columbus are required to wear masks in indoor areas accessible to the public and within the confines of public or private transportation regulated by the City of Columbus. When you are outdoors and cannot maintain 6 feet of distance, you also must wear a mask.

Do I need to wear a mask outside?

No -- unless you cannot maintain 6 feet distance from individuals outside your household. Strenuous exercise is also an exception for the mask requirement.

Do I have to wear a mask at a religious facility?

Religious facilities are exempt from this order. However, it is strongly recommended that people wear masks when in large group settings.

Does my child need to wear a mask?

Children under six years of age are exempt from this order. Do not put a mask on a baby – it is a suffocation risk.

Do I need to wear a mask at a bar or restaurant?

A mask is required to enter and exit a bar or restaurant. You are not required to wear a mask while you are actively eating or drinking. A mask is required if you get up from your seat and walk around the bar or restaurant, i.e., to go to the restroom. Bar and restaurant workers must wear a mask as well. (Grill/fryer/oven operators are exempt.)

Do I need to wear a mask if I have a medical condition that makes it difficult to breathe?

No. This order exempts people due to medical or behavioral conditions or disability that includes conditions that make breathing difficult.

How will this order be enforced?

Columbus Public Health will be enforcing this requirement and issuing warnings and citations for businesses. Businesses will receive a warning for the first violation, a \$500 fine for the second violation and a \$1,000 fine for the third violation.

What if I cannot afford a mask?

Masks can be made from common household items such as T-shirts or bandanas. If you need assistance getting a mask, you can call 3-1-1.

What is the purpose of this order?

With no vaccine or cure for COVID-19, face coverings are one of the best tools we have to help protect health and prevent the spread of disease in our community. Having more residents wearing face coverings in public will protect health and save lives in Columbus.

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