



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND JOINT INFORMATION CENTER COVID-19



News Release

Media Contact: Rissah Watkins
Frederick County Health Department
JIC@FrederickCountyMD.Gov
301-600-7662 • TTY Use Maryland Relay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2020

Frederick County Health Order Requires Public to Wear Face Coverings at Retail Businesses

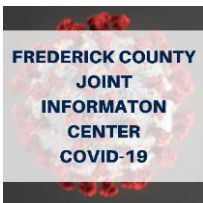
Frederick, MD – Frederick County Health Officer Dr. Barbara Brookmyer announces today that beginning Thursday, April 16, customers and employees at essential retail businesses will be required to wear face coverings. The [health order](#) also requires that these retailers establish capacity limits by setting limits on the number of customers in the facility at a given time and the number of individuals in any queue outside the establishment in order to promote social distancing.

“We are working on many fronts to slow the spread of COVID-19,” said Dr. Brookmyer. “Face coverings are one more way we can help to protect each other. When people wear a cloth face covering when working or shopping in public, they are helping to contain droplets they may be breathing out, which reduces the risk for the people around them. Additionally, these social distancing measures will help our community maintain the recommended space between individuals, reducing everyone’s risk.”

“To protect public health, including the safety of our essential workers, I urge all residents to follow the directive of Frederick County Health Officer Barbara Brookmyer to wear a face covering when you leave your home to buy groceries or go to the pharmacy,” said Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner. “Public health is a community responsibility and it is important for every Frederick County resident to do their part to protect the health of their family, neighbors and community.”

Essential retail businesses are required to provide employees with access to clean restrooms stocked with soap and sanitizer. They must allow employees to wash their hands at least every 30 minutes. Employees must be allowed to wear masks or face coverings, and employers must provide such coverings or make provisions for employees to obtain them. Essential retail businesses must also continue to comply with existing state and local sanitation requirements and statutes.

-more-



Page 2/Health Order for Face Coverings

Other safety measures aimed at protecting workers and shoppers include implementing physical distancing measures for workers, customers, and visitors. Appropriate signage and markings to reinforce social distancing and spacing must be displayed. Businesses who use shared equipment, such as baskets or hand carts, must provide sanitation equipment, such as handwipes or alcohol swabs, for individual use. The installation of physical barriers (e.g. Plexiglas, plastic wrap) between cashiers and customers is encouraged where possible.

Masks are not advised for children under two years of age, or for people who have difficulty breathing. Masks made for use in health care settings, such as N95 masks, should be reserved for health care workers. Cloth masks are an acceptable alternative for face coverings. CDC offers [instructions](#) on how to make face coverings at home with t-shirts or bandanas, as well as information about how to safely remove and clean cloth face coverings. Frederick County residents are encouraged to show how they're protecting our community against COVID-19 by: 1. Wearing a Face-Covering 2. Snapping a Selfie 3. Tagging #FredCoVID19.

Facial coverings are not a substitute for social distancing. Residents should still abide by Governor Hogan's [stay-at-home order](#) issued on March 30, and continue to maintain a safe distance from others when out at the grocery store or other essential businesses. Routine hand washing is also important to slow the spread.

- Be sure to stay at least six feet away from anyone who is not a member of your household.
- Avoid gathering in groups.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using standard cleaning practices.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, your sleeve, or your elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home except to get medical care.

The Directive and Order can be viewed [here](#).

For more information:

Frederick County residents can call 866-411-6803 to reach our local 211 center with general questions about coronavirus or COVID-19. For the most current and accurate information about this situation, please refer to the following:

- Frederick County Government: www.frederickcountymd.gov/Coronavirus
- Frederick County Health Department: health.frederickcountymd.gov/coronavirus

###