



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND JOINT INFORMATION CENTER COVID-19



Face Covering FAQs – updated 4.15.20

Questions about the legality of the order:

- Is this order legal?
 - o Yes, the Health Officer has the authority under Code of Maryland Regulations, Section 10.06.01.06 and the authority delegated to County Health Officers by Governor Larry Hogan in Executive Order 20-04-05-02 (as amended).
- Who has the authority?
 - o The Health Officer has the authority under Code of Maryland Regulations, Section 10.06.01.06 and the authority delegated to County Health Officers by Governor Larry Hogan in Executive Order 20-04-05-02 (as amended).
- What if people do not follow this? What should people do to report it?
 - o Complaints about businesses not complying can be emailed to: bbrookmyer@frederickcountymd.gov with the subject COMPLAINT and [name of business], and then describe the issue in the body of the email.
 - o Complaints about public: There are many reasons why people may not be able to wear a face covering and not all medical reasons for not wearing a face covering are visible. During this stressful time, we want to encourage our community to be kind to one another and avoid language or behavior that may stigmatize someone. Wearing face coverings is a way we can help to reduce the risk for our essential workers, so we hope our community will help protect others.
- How does Governor Hogan's new order impact this?
 - o This health order will go into effect in Frederick County on Thursday, April 16. The Maryland order will supersede it when it goes into effect.

Questions about employers:

- Define retail business:
 - o This order applies to any business that is selling something to the public face-to-face. This includes restaurants and take-out.
- Is there a guide for businesses establishing capacity per square foot that they can use and will be used for determining compliance?
 - o Essential retail businesses have the leeway to determine what works best for their space. The conditions that contribute to the potential spread of the virus are space and closeness of people to each other regardless of the larger building square footage and it also depends upon air flow. Employers should set capacity limits lower that allow for



employees and customers to continually observe social distancing of 6 feet as much as possible.

- What if my employer does not have a face covering for me?
 - o Talk with your employer about ways they can provide face coverings. Some employees may have creative solutions. Complaints about businesses not complying can be emailed to bbrookmyer@frederickcountymd.gov with the subject COMPLAINT and [name of business], and then describe the issue in the body of the email.
- Where can business owners find masks in the next 36 hours?
 - o This order does not require masks. Face coverings can be made by hand out of a t-shirt or bandana following CDC options for sew and no-sew options. There are also groups in our community active on Facebook that may be willing to provide face coverings to local businesses. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- Many facilities have not been able to get supplies of wipes for use on carts/ baskets (for use by staff or customers at entry of store). Some have started procedures for washing/sanitizing carts after each use by staff before returning the carts for use by another customer. Will this practice be acceptable?
 - o If essential retail businesses can't get individual wipes, essential business should sanitize all high touch and common surfaces with an EPA approved cleaner (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>). Employers will need to clean carts/baskets between each use with different customers instead of providing wipes. Employees can use the same solution to wipe down touch pads, doors, rails, etc. Frequent hand washing is better than hand sanitizer anyway.
- Do businesses have to provide hand sanitizer in rest rooms for customers?
 - o Businesses should be following the requirements for how to clean and stock restrooms for customers. According to #4 in the order, essential retail businesses are required to provide their employees with access to cleansing products, such as soap or sanitizer.
- Can a business ask a customer to leave for not complying?
 - o According to the order, businesses are responsible to ensure that employees comply, not customers. Some people cannot wear face coverings for a variety of reasons and they should be following social distancing guidelines.
- If an employee is practicing social distancing and not interacting with anyone (like a cook in the kitchen) do they need a face covering?
 - o Employer can evaluate, purpose is to reduce risk for employees, should be applied to ones who are already socially distanced and ones who have medical reasons for not wearing coverings.
- Compliance/reporting on public not wearing face coverings in a business?
 - o Businesses are not required to monitor customers. There are many reasons why people may not be able to wear a face covering and not all medical reasons for not wearing a face covering are visible. During this stressful time, we want to encourage our community to be kind to one another and avoid language or behavior that may stigmatize someone. Wearing face coverings is a way we can help to reduce the risk for our essential workers, so we hope our community will help protect others.



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- If all the business is over the phone do they need to provide face coverings for employees?
 - o No, this order is designed to reduce the risk for essential workers who are interacting with the public face-to-face.
- Employers who don't provide employees with face coverings
 - o Complaints about businesses not complying can be emailed to bbrookmyer@frederickcountymd.gov with the subject COMPLAINT and [name of business], and then describe the issue in the body of the email.

Questions about public wearing face coverings:

- Why do I need to wear a cloth face covering?
 - o In light of new data about how COVID-19 spreads, along with evidence of widespread COVID-19 illness in communities across the country, CDC recommends that people wear a cloth face covering to cover their nose and mouth in the community setting. This is to protect people around you if you are infected but do not have symptoms.
- What if I don't have a face covering?
 - o CDC has some tips on how to make a cloth face covering at home, both sew and no-sew options. You can make a face covering out of a t-shirt or bandana.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- What should men with beards do?
 - o This order requires face coverings, which do not need to have a seal like respirators such as N95 masks. People with beards or facial hair can still wear a face covering.
- Claustrophobia/anxiety/medical reason, can't wear face covering. What should they do?
 - o We know that some people cannot wear face covering for a variety of reasons. Face covering are not a substitute for social distancing, so we'd recommend that people who cannot wear one for medical reasons be extra vigilant with other methods of social distancing. Talk with your employer about other ways you can reduce the risk for yourself and your customers.
- What about my young child who is older than 2 years, or child who has autism or a reason s/he cannot wear a face covering.
 - o Under Governor Hogan's current stay at home order, people should only be going out for essential errands. If possible, only the adult needed for the essential errand should be out in essential retail businesses. If that is not possible, do not leave an underage child alone at home or in the car. We know that some people cannot wear face coverings for a variety of reasons. Face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing, so we'd recommend that people who cannot wear one be extra vigilant with other methods of social distancing.
- How do I speak to my child about wearing face coverings?
 - o This is a time when a lot of people are anxious, including children. This new order about face coverings can be an opening to talk with children about how germs can

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spread, and how we can help each other by staying away from other people and wearing face coverings. CDC has some helpful tips on how to talk with children here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>

- Do I still need to stay at least 6 feet away from people if I'm wearing a cloth face covering?
 - o Yes. Wearing cloth face coverings is an additional public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19. CDC still recommends that you stay at least 6 feet away from other people (social distancing), frequent hand cleaning and other everyday preventive actions. A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer, but it may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms. View CDC's guidance on [how to protect yourself](#).

Other questions:

- Can we get antibody tests in Frederick yet?
 - o check with your doctor for information about how to get an antibody test when they become available.