

Facial Coverings Frequently Asked Questions

Updated through Emergency Orders 20-12, 20-13, and 20-14

1. What is a facial covering? What does it do?

Facial coverings help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help keep you and those around you safe. The use of facial coverings may reduce transmission by more than 50%. Facial coverings should cover your nose and your mouth and comply with the CDC recommendations. For CDC guidance on selection, use, and sanitization of facial coverings see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/preventgetting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>). Please note facial coverings are in addition to, and not a substitute for, the required social distancing. [EO 20-12, Section 3]

2. Who has to wear a facial covering and when?

Generally stated, facial coverings must be worn by all persons when obtaining any good or service from any establishment, and by all persons working in those establishments during in-person interactions with the public (regardless of distance). These general rules apply to all establishments, including businesses, stores, and amenities. [EO 20-12, Section 3]

The persons who must wear facial coverings include:

- a. Members of the public when obtaining any good or service or otherwise visiting any establishment (which includes businesses and amenities), including entering, exiting, and otherwise moving around within the establishment;
- b. Workers in an establishment of any type that is permitted to operate in Broward County while engaged in in-person interactions with the public;
- c. Workers in restaurants or other food establishments, regardless of their distance from other persons, while involved in the preparation or handling of food, unless doing so would pose a hazard or health issue.

3. What are the consequences of violating an Emergency Order? How do I report a violation of the Emergency Orders?

Violation of an Emergency Order may be subject to civil and criminal enforcement action. Civil enforcement of a violation may include fines of \$1,000 per day per violation, except where the violation is knowing and irreparable/irreversible, in which event civil enforcement may include fines up to \$15,000 per violation [Section 8-56, Broward County Code of Ordinances]. Criminal enforcement of a violation as a second-degree misdemeanor may include fines of up to \$500 per day, imprisonment up to 60 days, or both [Section 8-55, Broward County Code of Ordinances]. If you know or suspect that a particular establishment is in violation of an applicable order, you should report the suspected violation to 311 or to the applicable local municipal code enforcement. These penalties may be imposed upon an individual as well as an establishment.

4. May municipalities impose additional, stricter limitations on facial coverings?

Yes. Municipalities may have stricter limitations than the County. Any more stringent requirements imposed by a municipality are in addition to the requirements stated in Broward County Emergency Orders and as further explained in these Frequently Asked Questions. Please check with your municipality for additional restrictions. [EO 20-12, Section 4]

5. Do I have to wear a facial covering at the gym?

If you are at a gym or fitness center (including similar establishments, such as dance studios, yoga studios, boxing clubs, etc.), you must wear a facial covering except when physically working out and during the cool-down portion of your workout. [EO 20-12, Section 3 and Attachment 1; EO 20-13, Attachment 14]. Staff at the gym or fitness facility must wear facial coverings. [EO 20-13, Attachment 14]

6. *What about at restaurants? Who has to wear facial coverings and when?*

You must wear a facial covering at all times when at a restaurant, including when entering, exiting, and otherwise moving around within the establishment, except during the shortest practical period when you are actually eating or drinking. [EO 20-12, Section 3]. For example, the facial covering should be worn when arriving at the restaurant, while waiting to be seated (whether waiting inside or outside nearby the facility), while being seated, while waiting to be served, when up and about such as to use the facilities, and when the meal is completed and waiting to pay. Facial coverings do not need to be worn when you are consuming the meal.

All restaurant staff who have direct customer contact must wear facial coverings at all times. All employees handling food must wear facial coverings. [EO 20-12, Attachment 2]

7. *Do I have to wear a facial covering in the park?*

Generally yes. Unless another exception applies, facial coverings are required to be worn in the park whenever you cannot consistently maintain at least six feet (6') of social distance from any person who is not in your household or group. [EO 20-12, Section 3]

8. *Do I have to wear a facial covering while shopping at a retail store?*

Yes. Unless another exception applies, facial coverings must be worn by persons obtaining goods or services at the grocery store, the mail, or any other retail establishment. [EO 20-12, Section 3] Please note that these requirements apply both while inside the establishment and while entering or leaving the establishment, including while leaving for short periods of time.

9. *Do I have to wear a facial covering on the beach?*

Generally yes. Unless another exception applies, facial coverings are required to be worn on the beach whenever you cannot consistently maintain at least six feet (6') of social distance from any person who is not in your household or group (other than when use of the beach or water necessarily precludes the wearing of a facial covering, such as while swimming, surfing, or otherwise exercising). [EO 20-12, Section 3] All persons must have a facial covering available and ready to use at all times, and be able to show their facial coverings upon request by local authorities.

10. *Do I have to wear a facial covering at the pool? While I'm swimming? What about pool staff?*

Yes. Unless another exception applies, facial coverings are required to be worn on the pool deck except when use of the pool necessarily precludes the wearing of a facial covering (such as while swimming). [EO 20-12, Section 3] Pool staff must wear facial coverings during in-person interactions with the public (except when deemed necessary to perform life-saving measures) and when they are within six feet of a person who is not a member of their household. [EO 20-12, Section 3 and Attachments 11 and 12]

11. *Do I have to wear a facial covering at the marina? What about on my boat?*

Yes. Unless another exception applies, facial coverings are required to be worn at the marina, when launching boats, and when patronizing ship (bait & tackle) stores. In addition, launching venue staff must wear facial coverings. Captain, crew members, and patrons must wear facial coverings on shore and on the vessel whenever social distancing requirements cannot be maintained. [EO 20-12, Section 3 and Attachment 9]

12. Do I have to wear a facial covering on the golf course?

Yes. Unless another exception applies, facial coverings are required to be worn on the golf course. In addition, golf course and beverage cart staff must wear facial covering during in-person interactions with the public. [[EO 20-12](#), Section 3, Attachment 1, and Attachment 10]

13. My office is now open. Do I have to wear a facial covering at work? Do my customers have to wear a facial covering?

Yes, whenever you are within six feet of another person who is not a member of your household. Businesses must ensure that employees wear facial coverings in the workplace when within six feet of someone else. Social distancing of six feet should be practiced to the maximum extent possible, even when facial coverings are worn. In addition, the business must require customers, clients, and other visitors to the business to wear facial coverings in accordance with the requirements of Broward County Emergency Orders. [[EO 20-12](#), Section 3 and Attachment 1]

14. I'm getting a haircut, shave, manicure, or other personal service. Do I have to wear a facial covering if I am receiving a service? Does the stylist or service provider have to wear a facial covering?

Yes, you must wear a facial covering to the full extent practicable for the service required. If you are obtaining a manicure, for example, you must wear a facial covering throughout the service. If you are obtaining a shave, you must wear a facial covering except during the shortest practical period of time when the service requires removal of the facial covering. Personal service employees must wear facial coverings when working. [[EO 20-12](#), Section 3 and Attachment 4]

15. If my faith precludes me wearing a facial covering, do I have to wear one?

No. If your wearing of a facial covering is subject to a religious objection, you are not subject to the Broward County facial covering requirement. Please note, however, that an establishment may deny access for any legitimate nondiscriminatory reason. [[EO 20-12](#), Section 3]

16. Do I have to wear a facial covering while at a hotel?

Guests must wear facial coverings in check-in areas, elevators, and all other common spaces, but not in rented rooms. All persons within the courtesy shuttle or in the business center must wear facial coverings. [[EO 20-12](#), Section 3; [EO 20-13](#), Attachment 13] The facial covering requirements applicable to the specific use areas (such as restaurants and fitness centers) shall be required in accordance with the specific use areas. For example, at hotel restaurants, please refer to the guidelines for restaurants [[EO 20-12](#), Attachment 2].

The general facial covering requirements apply to staff (namely, during any in-person interactions with the public), plus the following: bellhop staff and valets must wear facial coverings while performing the requested service; and staff must wear facial coverings when cleaning guest rooms. [[EO 20-12](#), Section 3 and Attachment 1; [EO 20-13](#), Attachment 13]

17. Are there exceptions to the facial covering requirements?

Yes. The persons who are not required to wear facial coverings are as follow:

- a. Children under the age 2 should not wear a facial covering;
- b. Children of any age while in the custody of licensed childcare facilities (including daycare);
- c. Persons who have difficulty breathing or a medical condition that otherwise makes the wearing of a facial covering unsafe;

- d. Persons receiving goods or services from a business or establishment for the shortest practical period of time during which the receipt of such goods or services necessarily precludes the wearing of a facial covering (such as eating, receiving a facial grooming, or swimming);
- e. Public safety, fire, or other life safety personnel, as their personal protective equipment requirements will be governed by their respective agencies;
- f. Any worker involved in the preparation of food only if doing so would pose a hazard or health issue; and
- g. Persons for whom wearing a facial covering is subject to a religious objection.

[[EO 20-12](#), Section 3]

18. *I have a health condition that makes breathing while wearing a facial covering particularly difficult. Am I required to wear a facial covering?*

No, Broward County Emergency Order 20-12 does not require that persons who have difficulty breathing or for whom the wearing of a facial covering is otherwise unsafe wear facial coverings. [[EO 20-12](#), Section 3]

19. *I have a health condition that does not allow me to wear a facial covering, but businesses are refusing to grant me access. What can I do?*

You may consider showing the County's Emergency Order 20-12 to the business and explaining that you fall within the exception. However, please note that a business may deny access for any legitimate nondiscriminatory reason. [[EO 20-12](#), Section 3]

20. *I have a health condition that does not allow me to wear a facial covering. Do I need to show medical proof before seeking access to a business or other establishment?*

No, the County's Emergency Orders do not require that you provide medical proof of a health condition that renders you exempt from the requirement to wear a facial covering. Please note, however, that a municipality or individual establishment may impose other or additional requirements.

21. *I have an exception to the facial covering requirements, but an establishment will not let me in. What can I do?*

Broward County has established certain exceptions to the County requirements for facial coverings. Please note that a business may deny access for any legitimate nondiscriminatory reason. If you believe an establishment is treating you inappropriately, you may want to discuss your concern with management of the establishment if you feel comfortable doing so. [[EO 20-12](#), Section 3]

22. *How should I discard my facial covering?*

Reusable facial coverings should be properly sanitized after each use per CDC guidelines. Disposable facial coverings and other disposable personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves must be discarded properly in a waste receptacle; littering of facial coverings or other personal protective equipment is prohibited. [[EO 20-12](#), Section 3]

23. *How can I contact the County if I have any questions or comments about COVID-19 or the County's Emergency Orders?*

Call the COVID-19 Hotline at (954) 357-9500.

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