



**NEVADA  
HEALTH  
RESPONSE**

## **Nevada Medical Advisory Team: Guidance on Directive 024: Face Coverings**

**Summary:** This document provides guidance on Directive 024, which enhances the original **GUIDANCE** on improvised face coverings released in conjunction with the advice of the Nevada Medical Advisory Team on April 3. This new directive requires Nevadans and visitors to wear face coverings when they are out in public, with limited exceptions as outlined below. Read on to learn more about the directive mandating face coverings:

### **When and where am I required to wear a face covering?**

Whenever you leave the house. To keep businesses open and help slow the spread, face coverings are required.

Face coverings should be worn at all times in the following circumstances:

- Public spaces:
  - Inside of, or standing in line waiting to enter, any indoor public space.
  - While outside in a public space when 6 feet of social distancing from those not in your same household isn't possible.
- Public or Private Transportation or paratransit that others HAVE used or WILL use:
  - While waiting for or riding on public transportation or paratransit.
  - While riding in taxis, private car services, monorails, trams, and rideshares like Uber and Lyft.
  - While driving or operating any form of transportation or paratransit when passengers not in your same household are

present. When no passengers are present, face coverings are still strongly recommended.

- While at work:
  - When interacting in-person with members of the public.
  - When in any space visited by the general public, even if no one else is present.
  - When in any space where food is prepared or packaged, for sale, or generally distributed to others.
  - When walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities.
  - In any room or enclosed area where other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present when unable to physically distance.
- While working out indoors at a gym, fitness center, dance studio, or boutique fitness facility:
  - When interacting with other people.
  - When entering and exiting the facility and while in common areas in the facility.
  - When physical distancing is difficult and exercise type and intensity allows for the wearing of a face covering.
  - When doing low-intensity activities like walking on an indoor track, stretching, or doing low-intensity yoga, Pilates, or similar exercises.
  - Consider doing any vigorous-intensity exercise outside and at least 6 feet from other people not in your household, when possible.

### **Are children required to wear a face covering?**

- The following children should never wear a face covering:
  - Those under 2 years of age, to avoid potential risk of suffocation.
  - Those who have a mental health condition, medical condition, or disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering.
  - Those who are engaged in strenuous physical activity.

- Children ages 2 to 9 are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings when in public spaces. Children ages 10 and above are required to wear face coverings when in public spaces.
- Children in Child Care: Child care providers must comply with requirements established by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public and Behavioral Health (or, in Washoe County, the Washoe County Department of Social Services) and are responsible for clearly communicating any requirements to parents and guardians.
- Children Enrolled in Summer School: Public or charter schools operating summer school programs must comply with any requirements established by the local school district and/or Nevada Department of Education. Any requirements should be communicated to students and parents or guardians and should be posted in classrooms.
- Children at Day Camps: Operators of day camps and similar programs must comply with requirements established by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and local health authorities and are responsible for clearly communicating any requirements to parents, guardians, and campers.

**Are there any exemptions to who should wear a face covering?** Yes,

Exemptions include persons:

- Who are 2 years of age and under, to avoid potential risk of suffocation.
- Who have a medical condition, whether it be mental health, disability, or other health reason that prevents them from wearing a face covering. This includes people with any medical condition for whom wearing a face covering can obstruct their breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- Who are experiencing homelessness. These individuals are strongly encouraged to continue to practice social distancing,

to wear face coverings if possible, and to seek out community services where available.

- Who are hearing impaired, or when in communication with an individual who is hearing impaired where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- For whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person as related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- Who are obtaining services involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- Who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage services, while they are eating or drinking, provided that they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet away from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.
- Who are engaged in outdoor work or recreation such as swimming, walking, hiking, bicycling, or running, when alone or with household members, and when they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others.
- Who are incarcerated. Prisons and jails are working diligently to mitigate the spread and have developed their own specific guidance for face coverings that applies to both inmates and staff.
- Who have a medical condition or disability, or who are otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance. Individuals exempted under this provision should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield, if possible.

**I'm a business owner, what does this mean for me?** With this new directive, businesses are asked to establish a "no mask, no service" policy for your own employees' and patrons' safety. Post notices on doors and in front of your locations to enhance public awareness and requirements for entry and safety. Please thoroughly screen those who are exempted from

this face covering directive. The Nevada Health Response Team has provided this “No Mask, No Service” printable [POSTER](#) for businesses to display reminding customers of the new face covering requirement for entry. For convenience, the Team has also provided the poster in [SPANISH](#) and in both [ENGLISH and SPANISH](#).

### **Can a business refuse service to someone who refuses to wear a mask or face covering?**

Businesses should first check that the individual is not part of an exempted category. If they are not exempted, businesses are encouraged to use the opportunity to have a discussion with any non-compliant individual and educate them on the importance of wearing a face covering to protect themselves, other patrons, and staff. Businesses do have the right to ask a patron to return at a different time with a face covering.

If a confrontation occurs between a patron refusing to wear a face covering and an employee, please use discretion and alert local law enforcement as necessary.

**I’m a consumer, I want to support my local bars, my favorite restaurants, casinos, etc., what does this mean for me?** Wearing a face covering is a way for every Nevadan to play their role in restarting our economy, keeping businesses open, and keeping your neighbors and families safe. If you support your local Nevada businesses and their staff, the best thing you can do to keep them open and keep them safe, is to wear a face covering and practice social distancing.

**Why should we wear a face covering?** Additional scientific information has come to light about the transmission of COVID-19, specifically that people that are infected but are asymptomatic or are pre-symptomatic unfortunately play a significant part in the spread. The use of face coverings, in conjunction with aggressive social distancing, can significantly limit the transmission of infectious particles when someone talks, coughs, or sneezes. See the bottom of this guidance for additional resources.

**Who else should wear a face covering?** Everyone that isn't impacted by one of the exemptions listed above. This virus doesn't care about your age, gender, or race, it attacks the entire populace. Many of those who've contracted the virus may be asymptomatic, so it's critical we all take precautions to limit the spread.

**What improvised face covering should I wear?** Whatever one works and fits you best, as long as it follows the basic design principles provided by our medical team and the CDC. Below are some helpful links for designs and information on caring for your new face covering. In addition, our medical advisors recommend face shields be accompanied by cloth face coverings, where medically possible. Keep in mind, FDA regulated PPE is currently in short supply and should be reserved for those working on the front line to combat this disease. They need it constantly and more than we do. However, there are several alternatives to protecting yourself.

**Click [HERE](#) for more information on face coverings, including basic design principles, type of face covering you should wear, and how to care for your face covering.**

### **Additional Resources**

- [CDC Guidance - Use of Cloth Face Covering to Help Slow Spread of COVID-19](#)
- [CDC Recommends Wearing Cloth Face Covering in Public Setting where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain](#)
- [Masks and Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)