

DELAWARE'S MASK ORDER
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS





Q: When do I need to start wearing a cloth face covering?

- The cloth face covering order started Tuesday morning on April 28, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and is scheduled to last until May 15, 2020, or until the public health threat is eliminated.

Q: What is a cloth face covering?

- A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face. It can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk, or linen. Research has shown that certain more densely-woven fabrics may be more effective. A cloth face covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand, or can be improvised from household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

Q: Do I need to wear a medical grade mask?

- No. Medical grade masks such as N95 masks and surgical masks are in short supply, and you should not purchase those masks as face coverings. Those medical grade masks should be reserved for health care providers and first responders.

Q: What if I don't have a mask?

- The state is requiring a face covering. That means any sort of cloth face covering, like a scarf, bandana or T-shirt, will satisfy the requirement.

Q: Does everyone need to wear a cloth face covering?

- A cloth face covering is required for anyone over 12 years old in most public settings. Any child 2-years-old or younger **MUST NOT** wear a face covering, due to the risk of suffocation.

Q: What will happen if I don't wear a cloth face covering?

- People who violate an emergency order can be fined up to \$500 or subject to imprisonment for up to six (6) months for each violation.

Q: Where do I need to wear a cloth face covering?

- The order requires everyone in public settings, including grocery stores, pharmacies, doctor's offices and public transportation, to wear a face covering. The order also includes outdoor public spaces like parks and golf courses if you cannot maintain social distancing of six (6) feet between yourself and people who do not live with you. Also, if you are sick, wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth if you must be around other people – even while at home.

Q: Do I need to wear a cloth face covering while I exercise?

- You can exercise outside without wearing a cloth face covering so long as you can maintain social distancing of six (6) feet between yourself and people who do not live with you. Taking a mask with you to the park is a good idea, in case the park becomes crowded.



Q: Do I need to wear a cloth face covering while walking around my neighborhood?

- You can walk around your neighborhood without a cloth face covering so long as you can maintain social distancing of six (6) feet between yourself and people who do not live with you. Taking a mask with you on your walk is a good idea.

Q: How do I make my own mask?

- Face masks can be made out of a variety of materials such as cotton, silk or linen. The Division of Public Health says that certain more densely woven fabrics may be more effective but improvised coverings made from scarves, T-shirts, towels and the like satisfy the order. Here is [a step-by-step tutorial](#) for making a mask out of a cotton fabric, and below is a video demonstrating how you can make a mask out of a T-shirt.

Q: How often should I clean my mask? How?

- The [Division of Public Health recommends](#) washing cloth coverings after each use, or at least daily. They can be cleaned with detergent and hot water and dried on a hot cycle. The Division of Public Health says masks should be discarded if they have stretched out, have damaged straps, have rips or holes or no longer cover the mouth and nose.

Q: What are the stipulations for businesses?

- The order also introduced new rules for businesses that take effect Friday, May 1, 2020 at 8 a.m., including the following:
 - Employees must wear a face mask, provided at the business' expense, while working in areas open to the public or places where coming within 6 feet of other employees is likely.
 - Businesses must also provide hand sanitizer for their employees.
 - Individuals who do not have a face covering should be denied entry.
 - If any business denying entry is providing medication, medical supplies or food, the business must provide alternate methods of pickup or delivery.

Q: How effectively do cloth face coverings prevent the spread of COVID-19?

- The primary role of cloth face coverings are to reduce the release of infectious particles into the air when someone speaks, coughs, or sneezes, including someone who has COVID-19 but may not show symptoms. Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for washing hands, physical distancing while performing essential activities, and staying home, but they may be helpful when combined with these actions.