



Municipality of Anchorage

Austin Quinn-Davidson, Acting Mayor

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE PROCLAMATION OF ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY ORDER EO-13-V4 REQUIREMENT FOR MASKS OR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS UPDATED AND REISSUED 3/23/21

ISSUED BY THE ACTING MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE PURSUANT TO ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.80.060H.

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated a public health emergency that threatens to overwhelm our health system, endangering the lives and wellbeing of the people of Anchorage. Our businesses are now operating with very limited restrictions and more than 19% of our population has been fully vaccinated. But most people in the municipality remain unvaccinated and mask usage remains key to preventing spread of COVID-19.

At the beginning of the pandemic, not much was known about the spread of COVID-19 or the efficacy of cloth masks in preventing its spread. Due to the need to limit medical-grade N-95 masks for medical providers and uncertainty about the usefulness of alternatives, early recommendations did not advise face coverings for the general public. But the scientific and medical communities now know better. Numerous scientific studies indicate that mask wearing by the public can help reduce the spread of the virus. This is because a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 are capable of transmitting the disease to others before (or without) showing any symptoms, through everyday activities such as talking in close quarters. Based on this information, the CDC now recommends always wearing masks or face coverings in public settings in addition to maintaining six feet of physical distancing. In line with this recommendation, the Municipality puts forth this updated order to preserve the health and safety of our community.

I HEREBY ORDER THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS TO BE UPDATED AND EFFECTIVE AS OF **12:00 P.M. ON MARCH 23, 2021**. THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS HAVE THE POWER OF LAW, SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL MODIFIED OR REVOKED, AND SHALL SUPERSEDE ALL CONFLICTING LAWS DURING THE EXISTENCE OF THIS EMERGENCY.

1. All individuals must wear masks or face coverings over their noses and mouths when they are (a) indoors in public settings or communal spaces outside the home; or (b) outdoors when at a gathering in public.



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2. A face shield is generally not permitted in lieu of a mask or face covering, as face shields are less effective in stopping the spread of COVID-19. However, face shields may be permitted in lieu of a mask or face covering for the following individuals, who must wear a face shield whenever a mask or face covering would be required unless it is impossible to do so:
 - a. Any individual who cannot tolerate a mask due to a physical or mental disability;
 - b. Individuals who are communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing;
 - c. Individuals performing an activity that cannot be conducted or safely conducted while wearing a mask (for example, a driver experiencing foggy glasses, a dental patient receiving care, an equipment operator where there is a risk of dangerous entanglement).
3. Employers must make sure employees who are present in the workplace have access to and wear masks or face coverings when with the public or unvaccinated coworkers.
4. This Order does not apply to the following categories of people or activities:
 - a. Any child under the age of 2 years. Additionally, masks are recommended, but not required, for children ages 2-5. Daycare settings that serve preschool children are encouraged but not required to enforce mask usage for children age 2 and older.
 - b. Individuals who are incarcerated, in police custody, or inside a courtroom; these individuals should follow guidance particular to their location or institution;
 - c. Presenters, musicians, others communicating to an audience or being recorded, if they are 10 feet from the audience and all members of the audience are wearing masks or face coverings.
 - d. Individuals removing their masks or face coverings to eat, drink, or briefly scratch an itch.
 - e. Employees within their own fully enclosed office or workspace or within an unenclosed workspace if they are totally alone.
 - f. Fully vaccinated employees working in a separate room from the public and unvaccinated coworkers. Employers wishing to utilize this exception must verify their employees' vaccination status in a manner consistent with workplace anti-discrimination laws.
5. Businesses and building owners shall deny admittance to any individual who fails to comply with this order and shall require or compel removal of such individuals from the premises. Provided, however, that this regulation shall be applied in a manner consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and any other applicable provision of law. Businesses may choose to allow individuals who request an accommodation under the ADA to wear a face shield, or may consider accommodating these individuals through alternate means of providing goods or services, such as curbside, delivery, or telephonic service.



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6. The Municipality reserves the right to use all available enforcement options to assure compliance with this Order. Violation of this Order does not create grounds for residents to harass individuals who do not comply with it.
7. Definitions.
 - a. "Mask" means a medical grade mask.
 - b. "Face covering" means a cloth, polypropylene, paper or other face covering that covers the nose and the mouth and that rests snugly above the nose, below the mouth, and on the sides of the face.
 - The following are not face coverings because they allow droplets to be released: a covering that incorporates a valve that is designed to facilitate easy exhalation, mesh masks, lace masks or other coverings with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material, or vents.
 - c. "Face shield" means a clear plastic shield that covers the forehead, extends below the chin, and wraps around the sides of the face.
 - d. "Fully vaccinated" individual is an individual who has received a COVID-19 vaccine where at least two weeks have elapsed since receipt of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine or two weeks since the second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines.
 - e. "Unvaccinated" individual means any individual who is not fully vaccinated.

DATED this 23rd of March, 2021.

Austin Quinn-Davidson, Acting Mayor
Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska