



Humboldt County COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Requiring the Use of Facial Coverings

1. When should I wear a facial covering?

- Before entering any indoor facility besides your home (Examples: grocery store, post office, restaurant carry out, etc.)
- Before entering any enclosed open space (Examples: bus, taxi, etc.)
- While outdoors when you are unable to maintain a six-foot distance from another person at all times. (Examples: Farmers' markets, pumping gas, drive thru/delivery/carry out/curbside pickup, etc.)
- When personal vehicle windows are lowered to interact with first responders, food service workers or others who are not members of your household.

2. Who shouldn't wear facial coverings?

- Children under age 2
- People who have trouble breathing
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the facial covering without help from someone else.

3. How long will I have to wear a facial covering in public?

Widespread use of facial coverings is the first key step to reopening Humboldt County businesses and services. The order takes effect starting at 12:01 a.m. Friday, April 24, and will be in effect until it is changed or lifted.

4. Do facial coverings prevent the spread of COVID-19?

When worn by someone with COVID-19, a facial covering may reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others. Since not everyone with COVID-19 knows they are sick, wearing a facial covering helps make sure you are not unknowingly infecting others. If worn by everyone when outside the home doing essential activities, this can help slow the overall spread of the virus and keep our community safer.

5. Why are facial coverings being required?

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates the virus is spread through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, and has been shown to attach to surfaces for days and remain viable in the air for up to three hours after the infected person has left.

Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against COVID-19 and no specific treatment.

When properly worn, facial coverings used in conjunction with physical distancing of at least six feet and frequent handwashing, may reduce the risk of transmission of this virus by limiting the spread of respiratory droplets from people infected with COVID-19.

6. Where can I get a facial covering?

Homemade facial coverings can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, denim, silk, or linen or fashioned from existing materials such as scarves, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, towels, turtlenecks. Learn how to make your own here: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html)

Many local retailers also are offering facial coverings for sale. Call ahead to check availability.

7. Can I wear a mask with a one-way valve?

If the one-way valve is not filtered, then an additional facial covering is required.

Facial coverings with a one-way valve are allowed if they have the following:

- A one-way valve that only releases filtered air on the exhale
- A minimum of one or more fabric barriers between the mouth and the exhaust valve.

8. What is my responsibility as a business owner to provide facial coverings for my employees?

Employers who continue to operate should make sure employees can adhere to the requirement while on duty by either:

- (1) supplying employees with facial coverings, or
- (2) ensuring that employees have access to facial coverings, or
- (3) ensuring that their employees are using their own facial coverings.

Additionally, each driver or operator of any public transportation or paratransit vehicle, taxi, or private car service or ride-sharing vehicle should wear a facial covering while driving or operating the vehicle, regardless of whether a passenger is in the vehicle, due to the need to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets in the vehicle itself.

9. What is the right way to use a cloth facial covering?

Facial coverings should:

- Not be shared
- Cover the mouth and nose completely
- Include multiple layers of fabric

- Be fitted carefully to prevent frequent adjustment. Remember to wash your hands before and after touching and adjusting your facial covering.
- Be washed ideally after each use or at least daily. If you must re-wear your cloth facial covering before washing, wash your hands immediately after putting it back on and avoid touching your face.
- Be discarded if it no longer covers the nose and mouth, if it is stretched out or damaged or cannot stay on the face.

10. Can I use a disposable medical-grade surgical or N95 respirator mask if I have them?

If you already have medical-grade masks, you can use them. Please avoid purchasing additional supplies as they are needed for health care workers who are at higher risk due to close contact with COVID-19 patients.

11. Are business owners required to prevent anyone without the proper facial covering from entering their place of business?

Businesses may, to the extent authorized by law, refuse admission or service to any customer or visitor who fails to wear a facial covering.

12. How will the requirement to wear facial coverings be enforced?

This requirement isn't intended as a punitive measure but a safety and educational measure, so enforcement will focus primarily on education. For those who repeatedly violate the requirement to wear facial coverings, a citation may be issued.