



General Face Mask FAQs (Updated 11/18/20)

On Monday, November 16, 2020, the City Commission of Dodge City voted to enact a face mask ordinance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the health and safety of all residents. Please read the frequently asked questions below to learn more about the ordinance and how it may pertain to you.

The City of Dodge City will add to these FAQs as necessary to address additional questions from the community. You can also email questions and concerns to masks@dodgecity.org.

You should wear a face mask when:

- Inside any indoor public space where distancing of 6 feet at all times is not possible;
- In line and waiting to enter an indoor public space;
- Obtaining services from the healthcare sector in settings, including but not limited to, a hospital, pharmacy, medical clinic, laboratory, physician or dental office, veterinary clinic, or blood bank, unless directed otherwise by an employee or healthcare provider;
- Waiting for or riding on public transportation or while in a taxi, private car service, or ridesharing vehicle; or
- While outdoors in public spaces and unable to maintain a 6-foot distance between individuals (not including individuals who reside together) with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity.

There are exceptions for wearing a face mask:

- Persons age five years or under; children age two years and under in particular should not wear a face-covering because of the risk of suffocation;
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face-covering—this includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face-covering could obstruct breathing or who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
- Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, or communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;

- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines;
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face-covering is necessary to perform the service;
- Persons who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, provided they maintain a 6-foot distance between individuals (not including individuals who reside together or are seated together) with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity;
- Athletes who are engaged in an organized sports activity that allows athletes to maintain a 6-foot distance from others with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity;
- Persons who are engaged in an activity that a professional or recreational association, regulatory entity, medical association, or other public-health-oriented entity has determined cannot be safely conducted while wearing a mask or other face-covering;
- Persons engaged in an activity or event held or managed by the Kansas Legislature;
- Persons engaged in a court-related proceeding held or managed by the Kansas Judiciary; and
- Persons engaged in any lawful activity during which wearing a mask or other face-covering is prohibited by law.

Where can I read the City's face mask ordinance?

You can read the approved face mask ordinance here:

<https://www.dodgecity.org/DocumentCenter/View/10255/Ordinance-3746>

When did the face mask ordinance go into effect? When does it expire?

The face mask ordinance went into effect on Monday, November 16. It will remain in effect until February 15, 2021, unless it is extended by the City Commission's action or rescinded at an earlier date by a majority vote of the City Commission. The City Commission will review this ordinance as an agenda item at the second meeting of each month during the period of time that the ordinance is in effect.

You can check upcoming City Commission agenda items at:

<https://www.dodgecity.org/54/City-Commission>

What is the definition of a public space?

"Public space" means any indoor or outdoor space or area that is open to the public; this does not include private residential property or private offices or workspaces that are not open to customers or public visitors.

What are the fines associated with violating the City of Dodge City Mask Ordinance?

The goal of the ordinance is to educate and encourage residents to wear face masks in public – not to hand out tickets. However, a person, firm, or corporation unable to demonstrate that they have and use a face mask can be in violation of the ordinance and face a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

If I cannot afford a mask, where can I get one?

Residents can obtain free masks by emailing masks@dodgecity.org

What's the proper way to wear a face mask?

If you have questions about the proper way to wear a mask, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>

What are the best practices for masks? How often should I wash or replace?

If you have questions about the proper way to maintain a washable mask, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-washcloth-face-coverings.html>

How can I report a business or a person that is not complying with the face mask ordinance?

The goal of the ordinance is to encourage residents and businesses to use face masks in public spaces – not to issue tickets. The Dodge City Police Department will focus on education and encourage residents and businesses to use masks in public spaces.

We strongly discourage residents from getting into arguments with individuals or businesses that do not comply with the ordinance. Instead, model the best behavior of helping to protect your health and fellow residents' health by wearing a face mask appropriately.

Do not call 911 to report a violation of the ordinance. If you have a public concern, send an email to masks@dodgecity.org.

Do those who meet the exempt requirements need to have written proof of exemption?

No, the ordinance does not require residents to possess written proof of the exemption.

Can a business deny entry if I am not wearing and face mask and I claim on exemption?

A private business can refuse service to you for a variety of different reasons. We have found that some businesses have corporate mask policies that are more stringent than our ordinance.

Do I have to wear a face mask at church?

Only if you are unable to maintain six feet of social distancing, then face masks should be worn. Masks can be removed if social distancing is possible.

Do I have to wear a face mask at my individual workstation?

Employees whose workspaces are in the open (instead of a dedicated office space) that can be visited or passed by the public or co-workers must wear masks whenever someone else is present. If there no one within 6 feet of the workspace, a face mask is not required.

Do I have to wear a face mask at my office?

Employees with dedicated office space must wear masks when others are present in their workspace.

Do businesses need to enforce the new mask ordinance for their customers and clients who come to their locations?

Yes, businesses are expected to require patrons to wear masks if their place of business meets the mask ordinance requirements. Printable signage can be found at the following link:

<https://www.dodgecity.org/1004/Mask-Ordinance-Information>

I own a business or store and have customers who do not want to wear a mask in my store.

Do I have the right to deny a customer service if they do not wear a face mask? What if they refuse to put a mask on?

Yes, the ordinance directs businesses and individuals to use a face mask in public. You always have the right to deny service at your place of business to anyone who will not wear a mask in your business, regardless of the existence of a face mask ordinance. We recommend avoiding verbal conflict with those who refuse to wear a mask in your store. Send an email to masks@dodgecity.org if you have specific questions regarding non-compliance issues at your business.

It's a good idea to put a "Face Masks Required" sign on your business door so that customers are clearly aware of the City ordinance that requires all residents to wear a mask in public spaces.

My business has plastic/plexiglass barriers installed for customer interactions. Do employees still have to wear masks?

Yes, employees must wear masks when they are working in any space visited by customers or members of the public if they are unable to maintain a 6-foot social distance.

Are children and staff at childcare facilities required to wear masks?

No. KDHE has provided guidelines that recommend that children in childcare settings are not required to wear face masks. The following guidelines can be found on KDHE's website:

"KDHE is not requiring the use of masks/cloth face coverings in childcare facilities for adult staff or children in care. However, local health officials and employers/childcare programs can require the use of masks in child care settings. If staff are wearing masks, care should be taken to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing face coverings and to wash hands immediately after removing. Masks should be washed frequently. Staff wearing masks may also need to consider the speech and language skills of young children as visual access to caregivers' mouths is critical to infant/toddler speech

development. Additionally, young children may try to touch or remove the mask from their caregiver which could result in contamination. If feasible and necessary, children in care over the age of 2 years may safely wear masks, in consultation with parents, once they are able to put one on and remove it without assistance and are able to avoid touching or sucking on it. Masks should not be placed on anyone—adult or child—who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove their mask without assistance."

For full details on the KDHE guidance on childcare facilities can be found at the following link:
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/227/Childcare-Foster-care>

Do audience members at cultural or performing arts events need to wear masks?

Yes. Masks are required in any public space where safe social distancing is not possible. Mask can be removed if social distancing is possible. Masks could be removed once audience members are in their seats if they can maintain 6 feet of distance from anyone who does not reside with them. If audience members leave their seats, they should be advised to put the mask back on to make sure they can maintain 6 feet of social distance.

Is it necessary to wear a mask while walking my dog?

A mask is only required outdoors when you cannot maintain a 6-foot distance between individuals who do not reside together.

How can I ask questions or share concerns about the face mask ordinance?

Email us at masks@dodgecity.org if you have a question or comment about the ordinance. Please do not call 911. The City of Dodge City is asking for voluntary compliance with this new ordinance. Calls for service are prioritized, and there will likely be a delay in response as other higher priority calls will be handled first. 911 should be reserved for emergency calls only.