



CITY OF VALDEZ
COVID-19
PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATE #003

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 Valdez. A phased reopening has allowed businesses to get back to work, with precautions in place. However, with cases rising throughout Alaska, our open status is in jeopardy unless more individuals act decisively to stop the spread.

Recent scientific studies indicate that mask wearing by the public can help reduce the spread of the virus. Based on this information, the CDC now recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. In line with this recommendation the City of Valdez puts forth this mandate to preserve the health and safety of our community through prevention of community transmission.

THE CITY OF VALDEZ HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING MANDATE TO BE EFFECTIVE AS OF JULY _____, 2020. THE FOLLOWING MANDATE SHALL HAVE THE POWER OF LAW, AND SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL REVOKED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

1. All people in Valdez over the age of five shall wear a protective mask or cloth facial covering (such as a homemade mask, bandana, scarf, or handkerchief) that covers their mouth and nose when they are indoors in public settings or communal spaces outside the home where social distancing of six feet cannot be maintained. This mandate is subject to the conditions and exceptions stated below.
2. The settings included in this mandate include, but are not limited to, the public and communal spaces within the following:
 - (A) Whenever in an indoor public place including grocery stores, pharmacies, and all other retail stores.

(B) Restaurants, bars and breweries, including food preparation, carry-out, and deliver food operations. Masks or cloth face coverings must be worn by customers except while actively eating and drinking.

(C) Whenever using public transportation, a taxi, or a ride sharing service. This mandate does not apply to people who are riding in a personal vehicle or that are with their own shelter group and isolated from others in the public.

(D) Communal areas of offices where people from multiple households are present.

3. Employers are responsible to make sure employees who are present in the workplace have access to and wear masks or cloth face coverings when in direct contact with customers, members of the public, or other employees. Masks are not required when the only direct contact is between members of the same household or when employees are not near others (within 6 feet).

4. This order does not apply to the following categories of people or activities:

(A) Any child under the age of 5 years.

(B) Any individual for whom wearing a mask or cloth face covering would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition or mental health condition and any individual unable to tolerate a mask due to physical or mental disability.

(C) Individuals performing an activity that cannot be conducted or safely conducted while wearing a mask (example, driver experiencing foggy glasses, dental patients, equipment operator).

5. If a person declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition or disability, this order does not require them to produce medical documentation verifying the stated condition or disability.

6. The City reserves the right to use all available enforcement options to assure compliance with this mandate. However, employers will not be subject to fines based on non-compliance by customers so long as there is a clearly posted sign at each public entrance informing customers that they are required to wear face coverings. Brief removal of a face covering, such as necessary to eat, drink, or scratch an itch does not constitute a violation of this mandate. Additionally, violation of this mandate does not create grounds for residents to harass individuals who do not comply with it.

DATED, this _____ day of July, 2020.

Jeremy O'Neil, Mayor