



CITY OF VALDEZ
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATE #004
AMENDMENT NO. 1

**REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS (MASKS) IN
INDOOR PUBLIC SETTINGS & INDOOR COMMUNAL SPACES IN VALDEZ**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten the health and well-being of Valdez. Our community is currently experiencing the highest number of daily active cases and transmission rates since the pandemic began in March 2020. This surge is straining the statewide healthcare system, to the point where healthcare services have been forced to implement Crisis Standards of Care and challenging local businesses and schools in their ability to remain open.

Studies indicate mask wearing by the public can help reduce the spread of the virus. The CDC recommends wearing a mask indoors in public if you live in an area with substantial or high transmission rates, even if you are vaccinated. In line with this recommendation, the Valdez City Council puts forth this mandate to preserve the health and safety of our community.

THE VALDEZ CITY COUNCIL HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING MANDATE TO BE EFFECTIVE AS OF 5:00 PM ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021. THE FOLLOWING MANDATE SHALL HAVE THE POWER OF LAW AND SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL **DECEMBER 22, 2021**, UNLESS OTHERWISE EXTENDED OR RESCINDED BY VALDEZ CITY COUNCIL.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 in indoor public settings or indoor communal spaces. 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 indoor public and indoor 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 delivery 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 household and isolated from others in the public.
 - d. Communal areas of offices where people from multiple households are present.

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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 indoors and 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 of age. Additionally, students over the age of 5 years enrolled in a Valdez School District school or a licensed childcare program may be exempted from this order during school activities as determined by Valdez School Board policy or DHSS childcare licensing requirements.
 - 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, mental health 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, a violation of this mandate does not create grounds for residents to harass individuals who do not comply with it.

DATED, **this 2nd day of November, 2021.**

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA
Valdez City Council