



# Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

## **MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE PROCLAMATION OF ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY ORDER EO-13 REQUIREMENT FOR MASKS OR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS**

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

At the beginning of this 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 know better now. Recent 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 wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. In line with this recommendation, the Municipality puts forth this additional order to preserve the health and safety of our community.

I HEREBY ORDER THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY REGULATION TO BE EFFECTIVE AS OF 8:00 A.M. ON JUNE 29, 2020. THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS HAVE THE POWER OF LAW, SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL JULY 31, 2020 at 11:59 PM UNLESS REVOKED SOONER OR EXTENDED, AND SHALL SUPERSEDE ALL CONFLICTING LAWS DURING THE EXISTENCE OF THIS EMERGENCY.

1. All individuals must wear masks or cloth face coverings over their noses and mouths when they are indoors in public settings or communal spaces outside the home. This order is subject to the conditions and exceptions stated below.



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2. The settings included in this order include, but are not limited to, the public and communal spaces within the following:
  - A. Grocery stores, pharmacies, and all other retail stores.
  - B. Restaurants, cafes, bars, and breweries – including food preparation, carry-out, and delivery food operations. There is a limited exception for customers while they are eating or drinking in one of these settings.
  - C. Buses, taxis, and other forms of public transportation when passengers are present.
  - D. Personal care facilities, to the extent required by EO-10, Attachment B.
  - E. Child care facilities, to the extent required by EO-10, Attachment E.
  - F. Communal areas of offices where people from multiple households are present.
  - G. Elevators and indoor communal spaces in other buildings.
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 six feet).
4. This Order does not apply to the following categories of people or activities:
  - A. Any child under the age of 2 years. These very young children should not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation;
  - B. Any child under the age of 12 years unless a parent or caregiver supervises the use of face coverings by the child to avoid misuse;
  - C. Any child in a child care or day camp setting, although such settings may provide their own requirement for use for children age 2 years old or older;
  - D. 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 a physical or mental disability;



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- E. Individuals who are speech impaired, deaf, or hard of hearing, or individuals communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing, where facial or mouth movements are an integral part of communication;
  - F. Any individual who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance;
  - G. Individuals who are exercising, if mask wearing would interfere with their breathing;
  - H. Individuals who are incarcerated, in police custody, or inside a courtroom; these individuals should follow guidance particular to their location or institution;
  - I. 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); and,
  - J. Musicians, presenters, ministers, and others communicating to an audience or being recorded, for the duration of their presentation/practice/performance where mask usage impairs communication, and so long as safe physical distancing is maintained.
5. If a person declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition or disability as described above, this order does not require them to produce medical documentation verifying the stated condition or disability. Businesses may wish to consider accommodating such individuals through curbside or delivery service or by allowing the individual inside without a mask if doing so will not place others at risk.
6. The Municipality reserves the right to use all available enforcement options to assure compliance with this Order. However, employers will not be subject to fines based on non-compliance by customers so long as there is a clearly posted sign informing customers that they are required to wear face coverings. Brief removal of a face covering, such as is necessary to eat, drink, or scratch an itch does not constitute a violation of this order (although hand washing/sanitizing is recommended after such activities). Additionally, violation of this Order does not create grounds for residents to harass individuals who do not comply with it.

DATED this 26th day of June, 2020.

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor  
Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska