



CITY OF VALDEZ
COVID-19
PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATE #003

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten the health and well-being of Valdez. With our first confirmed cases of the virus, we've reached a dangerous threshold where it is recommended we require, not request, preventative measures that will reduce the possibility of a surge that could create community transmission and overwhelm our local healthcare system. The first case of confirmed community transmission may require more drastic public health measures. Therefore, we must work proactively to avoid this threshold and keep our community healthy, our small businesses open, and our children headed back to school this fall.

Recent 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 5:00 PM ON JULY 10, 2020. THE FOLLOWING MANDATE SHALL HAVE THE POWER OF LAW, AND SHALL BE REVIEWED ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2020, AND THEREAFTER AS RECOMMENDED BY THE VALDEZ COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND.

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. 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 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 7th day of July, 2020.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA
Jeremy O'Neil, Mayor