

COVID-19 FAQs

Cloth masks or face coverings in the workplace

Q: Who is required to wear a cloth mask or face covering?

A: The requirement to wear cloth face coverings applies to employers and employees at Ohio workplaces. Businesses in the manufacturing, distribution, and construction industries are authorized to open May 4; general office environments are authorized to open May 4; and consumer, retail, and service locations are authorized to open May 12. For additional information, visit the [Responsible RestartOhio](#) page at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Q: Are there exceptions?

A: Yes. Employers and employees are not required to wear face coverings if it is not advised due to health reasons, against documented industry best practices, prohibited for a specific position by law or regulation, or a violation of a company's safety policy. A face covering also is not required if an employee is working alone in an enclosed office space or if there is a practical reason one cannot be worn. If any of these exceptions apply, written justification must be provided upon request.

Q: What else should I do to protect myself if I go to work?

A: Whenever possible stay at least 6 feet from other people. Wash your hands often, try not to touch your face, and frequently disinfect work areas and high-touch items in your workplace with disinfecting cleanser. Don't share work materials or equipment, especially equipment used near the face. Don't congregate with others in breakrooms or other areas. Avoid public or shared transportation if possible. Monitor yourself for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) and stay home if you experience any or otherwise feel sick.

Q: Why aren't face coverings required for customers, clients, and other visitors or guests?

A: Face coverings are strongly recommended for people who can safely wear them. The decision to exempt customers from the requirement was made to protect Ohioans who cannot wear face coverings, such as people who have severe asthma or breathing issues, hearing aids, autism, post-traumatic stress disorder, or claustrophobia. ***In addition, face coverings should NEVER be worn by or placed on people who are younger than 2, have difficulty breathing, or are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove them without assistance.***

Q: Why should I wear a face covering?

A: Many people with COVID-19 have no symptoms, so the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

advises that Americans wear cloth face coverings as a possible way to protect one another from infection. It is important to note that face coverings are not a substitute for other prevention efforts, such as hand-washing and social distancing. Continue to stay 6 feet from others whenever possible, to clean hands frequently, and to follow the other prevention methods in the below graphic.

Q: What is the proper way to wear a face covering?

A: Use a face covering that fits snugly but comfortably and allows for breathing without restriction. Wear horizontally, covering nose, mouth, and chin at all times, and secure behind the head with ties or ear loops. Wash your hands before putting the face covering on and immediately after removing it, and don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth when taking it off. Routinely launder and dry the covering. Do not wear when wet.

Q: Where can I get a face covering?

A: You can make your own face covering with multiple layers of a fabric that does not damage or lose shape when machine laundered and dried. You also can support small businesses selling fabric face coverings at a reasonable price — but watch out for scammers offering high-priced or so-called superior face coverings. Instructions for making your own sewn or no-sew face covering can be found [here](#). *Do not use medical masks, which must be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.*

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 Ohio

Department
of Health

Protect yourself and others from
COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

PREVENTION

For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.



STAY HOME



PRACTICE
SOCIAL
DISTANCING



GET ADEQUATE SLEEP
AND EAT WELL-
BALANCED
MEALS



WASH HANDS OFTEN
WITH WATER AND SOAP
(20 SECONDS
OR LONGER)



DRY HANDS WITH
A CLEAN TOWEL
OR AIR DRY
YOUR HANDS



COVER YOUR MOUTH
WITH A TISSUE OR
SLEEVE WHEN
COUGHING OR SNEEZING



AVOID TOUCHING
YOUR EYES, NOSE,
OR MOUTH WITH
UNWASHED HANDS
OR AFTER
TOUCHING SURFACES



CLEAN AND DISINFECT
"HIGH-TOUCH"
SURFACES OFTEN



CALL BEFORE VISITING
YOUR DOCTOR



PRACTICE GOOD
HYGIENE HABITS

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov