



# Ohio Mask Mandate

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Ohio Statewide Mask Mandate is effective as of **July 23, 2020 at 6:00pm** and remains in effect until in effect until the Governor's Executive Order expires or the Director of the Ohio Department of Health rescinds or modifies this Order.

### When do I have to wear a facial covering?

- ] In any indoor location that is not a residence.
- ] Outdoors, if it not possible to consistently maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between people who are not members of the same household.
- ] When waiting for, riding, driving, or operating public transportation, a taxi, a private care service, or a ride share vehicle. (This does not apply to private or rental vehicles in which members of a family are sharing a vehicle.)

### Who is exempt from wearing a facial covering?

- ] The individual is under ten years of age
- ] A medical condition including those with respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, mental health conditions, or disability contraindicates the wearing of a facial covering
- ] The individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication
- ] The individual is alone in an enclosed space, such as an office, or in lieu of an enclosed space, the individual is separated by at least six feet in all directions from all other individuals, and in either case the space is not intended for use or access by the public
- ] The individual is actively engaged in exercise in a gym or indoor facility so long as six or more feet of separation between individuals exists
- ] The individual is actively participating in athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under a separate Department of Health order;
- ] The individual is actively engaged in a public safety capacity, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters or emergency medical personnel
- ] The individual is seated and actively consuming food or beverage in a restaurant or bar; i. Facial coverings are prohibited by law or regulation
- ] Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards
- ] Facial coverings are in violation of a business's documented safety policies
- ] Individual is actively participating in broadcast communications
- ] Individual is an officiant of a religious services
- ] In an industrial or manufacturing facility, employees are separated by at least six feet in all directions, or by a barrier in a manufacturing line or work area
- ] Schools offering kindergarten through grade twelve instruction (or some portion of it) that comply with the guidelines set forth by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Health
- ] Child care centers, family child care, in-home aids, day camps, and after school programs licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) that comply with current and future guidelines set forth by ODJFS and the Ohio Department of Health

Defiance County



Public Health

[Coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov)

[Defiancecohealth.org](https://www.defiancecohealth.org)

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#### **What is the basis of authority to enforce these orders?**

- J Provisions of the Ohio Revised Code in Chapter 3701 set forth the authority of the Director of the Ohio Department of Health to issue emergency orders (see ORC 3701.04 and 3701.13). Additionally, violations of those Orders are prohibited (see ORC 3701.352) and are enforceable by any Law Enforcement personnel including Police Officers and Sheriff Deputies (see ORC 3701.56). Generally, each violation under ORC 3701.352 is a Misdemeanor of the Second Degree (see ORC 3701.99) punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a fine of \$750.00.

#### **How and under what circumstances should the orders be enforced?**

- J Local authorities are primarily focused on educating the public and encouraging everyone to make a good faith effort to follow the health and safety rules. There is a strong desire to use the precious resources of the local Health Department and local Law Enforcement in a careful and judicious manner. For those reasons every effort is being made to guide, encourage, warn and direct members of the community to comply with the emergency health orders, including the mask mandates. Spending time issuing citations takes away from those Law Enforcement resources that are constantly in demand for a multitude of public safety matters. For these reasons, it is imperative that members of the public make their best efforts to use good common sense in compliance with the orders as well as when calling in complaints for enforcement. Please do not call emergency 911 lines, local law enforcement, or fire departments to report Health Order violations.
- J Flagrant and / or ongoing violations may be reported through the Health Department during regular business hours or by reporting at [defiancecohealth.org/covid19report](https://defiancecohealth.org/covid19report).
- J The filing of formal violation actions under the authority mentioned above is not the preferred course of action by local authorities.

#### **How do I report a concern?**

- J To notify the Defiance County Health Department of a facial covering issue please email the concern to [coronavirus@defiancecohealth.org](mailto:coronavirus@defiancecohealth.org) or visit <https://defiancecohealth.org/covid19report/>
- J Please include: the location of the concern, the nature of the concern, the date in which you observed, your name, and your phone number. We ask that all concerns are directed through these places.  
Please **do not** contact 911 communications center, local law enforcement, or fire departments regarding these concerns. Please keep these lines open for emergencies

#### **How will the Health Department follow up with mask concerns?**

- J The primary goal is to educate why the use of a facial covering is important. Utilizing a facial covering is one method in preventing COVID-19 infection. The combination of social distancing, good hand hygiene, wearing a facial covering, avoiding large crowds, and staying home when you are sick will decrease your likelihood of being infected with COVID-19. The Defiance County Health Department will consult and work with the Defiance County Prosecutors Office to address any facial covering enforcement issues.

