



## FAQs Mask Requirements in Anne Arundel County

Updated Tuesday, January 11th, 2022

Anne Arundel County Department of Health Order for Public Safety - Face Coverings can be found [HERE](#).

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. [When is a face mask or covering required?](#)
2. [What constitutes a “face covering”?](#)
3. [Do I have to wear a face covering outside?](#)
4. [What businesses does this face covering order apply to?](#)
5. [Do I have to wear a face covering at an indoor office facility?](#)
6. [When does the face covering requirement end?](#)
7. [Is there an age exemption for wearing a face covering?](#)
8. [Is there an exemption to wearing a face covering for persons with a medical condition or a disability?](#)
9. [Are there workspace safety exemptions to wearing a face covering?](#)
10. [Can persons remove their face covering if asked to as part of a security check?](#)
11. [What if the face covering would make it impossible to receive certain services, such as dental care, shaving, or facial treatments?](#)
12. [Can a face covering be removed when eating or drinking?](#)
13. [Does a person have to wear a face covering while giving a speech or performing for a broadcast or an audience?](#)
14. [Do athletes have to wear a face covering while playing an indoor sport?](#)
15. [Does a person have to wear a face covering while working out in a gym?](#)
16. [Does a person have to wear a face covering while swimming laps in an indoor pool?](#)

## **1. When is a face mask or covering required?**

All persons over the age of two years shall wear a face covering while indoors at any location or area where members of the public are generally permitted.

## **2. What constitutes a “face covering?”**

For the purpose of this order, a “face covering” means a covering that fully covers, without gaps, a person’s nose, mouth, and chin and is secured to the person’s head.

You can find more information about how to properly use a face covering on the [Department of Health's website](#).

## **3. Do I have to wear a face covering outside?**

All persons over the age of two years shall wear a face covering while outdoors in public spaces when it is not feasible to maintain a physical distance of six feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.

## **4. What businesses does this face covering order apply to?**

This applies to any place of business at which members of the public are generally permitted.

## **5. Do I have to wear a face covering at an indoor office facility?**

You do not have to wear a face covering at your own office space when alone or in a cubicle where you can be separated from others by six feet or more.

## **6. When does the face covering requirement end?**

The current Health Order is set to expire on January 31, 2022.

## **7. Is there an age exemption for wearing a face covering?**

Children two or younger are **not** required to wear a face covering.

**8. Is there an exemption to wearing a face covering for persons with a medical condition or a disability?**

Yes, a person does not have to wear a face covering if due to a bona fide disability or medical condition, it would be unsafe for the person to do so.

Additionally, a person does not have to wear a face covering if doing so would impede communication by or with persons who have a hearing impairment, speech impairment, or other disability when the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication or therapy.

**9. Are there workspace safety exemptions to wearing a face covering?**

Yes, a person does not have to wear a face covering at work if doing so would subject the person to an unsafe working condition, as determined by established workplace safety laws or guidelines.

**10. Can persons remove their face covering if asked to as part of a security check?**

Yes, a person may remove their face covering if it is necessary to observe the person's entire face to verify the person's identity for bona fide security purposes.

**11. What if the face covering would make it impossible to receive certain services, such as dental care, shaving, or facial treatments?**

A person may remove their face covering while they are in the act of receiving a service that the face covering would make impossible to receive.

**12. Can a face covering be removed when eating or drinking?**

Yes, a person may remove their face covering when they are actively eating or drinking.

**13. Does a person have to wear a face covering while giving a speech or performing for a broadcast or an audience?**

No, a person does not have to wear a face covering while she/he is giving a speech or performing for a broadcast or an audience **so long as no one in a location accessible to the public is within six feet of the speaker.**

**14. Do athletes have to wear a face covering while playing an indoor sport?**

An athlete does not have to wear a face covering while “on the field of play,” or engaged in another physical activity where the use of a face covering is likely to pose a bona fide safety risk.

Athletes are, however, expected to wear a face covering while on the sidelines.

All coaches and spectators at athletic events must wear face coverings.

**15. Does a person have to wear a face covering while working out in a gym or other fitness facility?**

A person may remove their face covering in a gym or other fitness facility while they are actively engaged in vigorous exercise.

The management of the facility is expected to do their best to space out the equipment and otherwise utilize the space so that patrons are spread out as much as possible while they are actively engaged in vigorous exercise.

All persons must wear a face covering while they are walking about the facility and at all other times that they are not engaged in vigorous exercise.

**16. Does a person have to wear a face covering while swimming laps in an indoor pool?**

No, a person does not have to wear a face covering while swimming.