

YOUR INPUT NEEDED

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH

REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESSES



City of Seattle businesses must require every person in their establishment to wear a protective face covering over their nose and mouth. Businesses must also comply with physical distancing, applicable business occupancy guidelines and other personal protective behaviors required by [a statewide order](#). Violation of the order is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to 90 days in jail and up to a \$100 fine. Businesses that routinely violate the order could lose their business license.

Acceptable Removal of Face Coverings

Businesses may allow an individual to remove their face covering under the following circumstances:

- While seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, if they can maintain a distance of at least six feet from guests seated at other tables.
- While in an outdoor public area, provided that a distance of at least six feet is maintained from non-household members.
- When any party to a communication is deaf or hard of hearing and not wearing a face covering is essential to communication.
- When obtaining a service that requires temporary removal of the face covering.
- When necessary to confirm the individual's identity.
- When federal or state law prohibits wearing a face covering or requires removing a face covering.

Exemptions for Wearing a Face Covering

Businesses are exempt from requiring face coverings for the following individuals:

- Children younger than five years old.
- People with a medical condition, mental health condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes, but is not limited to, people with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.

Physical Distancing

Businesses must also practice physical distancing,

specifically:

- Tables must be placed far enough apart when measured from occupied chair to occupied chair, to ensure dine-in guests seated at a table are a minimum of six feet away from guests at adjacent table, or there must be a physical barrier or wall separating booths or tables.
- If an establishment does not offer table service, it must have protocols in place to ensure adequate physical distancing at food and drink pick-up stations, and seating within its dining area.

Occupancy Limits

Businesses shall also adhere to occupancy limits and all patrons must be seated at the specific seating capacities specified for each of the state's reopening phases.

The City is seeking your feedback!

Let us know how we can support your business in meeting reopening requirements. Please submit any comments by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 28:

- If by phone, call 206-386-1268 (interpretation services available upon request)
- If by email, to consumerprotection@seattle.gov
- If by mail, to:
City of Seattle
Dept. of Finance and Administrative Services
Attention: Consumer Protection Division
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