

# 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.

## Questions about this requirement?

Please call 206-684-2489 or visit

[www.seattle.gov/business-regulations](http://www.seattle.gov/business-regulations)

[www.seattle.gov/mayor/covid-19/covid-19-reopening](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/covid-19/covid-19-reopening)