

August 17, 2021

On March 12, 2020, the Mayor of the City and County of Denver declared a state of local disaster emergency pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, due to the risk of spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) recommends individuals older than 2 years of age should wear a face covering indoors in public. Additionally, on August 5, 2021, the CDC updated its COVID-19 guidance for K-12 schools, wherein the CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with face coverings indoors to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as screening testing, cohorting, improved ventilation, handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when sick with symptoms of infectious illness, including COVID-19, and regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk. A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between students and teachers/staff, and between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated.

In accordance with this guidance, we must continue to take measures to facilitate reopening schools while also protecting public health by incorporating best practices to protect individuals from infection. As such, the following is hereby ordered:

- All individuals age two (2) and older must wear a medical or non-medical cloth Face Covering that covers the nose and mouth in all childcare facilities and preschool through grade 12 schools (including extracurricular activities), regardless of vaccination status.

“Face Covering” as used in this Order, means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face. A Face Covering may be factory-made or may be handmade and improvised from ordinary household materials. The Face Covering should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, include multiple layers of fabric, allow for breathing without restriction, and be able to be laundered and machine-dried without damage or change to shape. Face Coverings need to cover the nose and mouth at all times and should remain in place until taken off safely. Face Coverings should be replaced when they become dirty, wet, and/or difficult to breathe through.

Face Coverings should be removed during naps and nap mats should be placed at least six (6) feet apart. Parents and caregivers must supervise the use of Face Coverings by children to avoid misuse.

Individuals may remove their Face Covering when seated during meal and snack time and while actively eating or drinking. However, individuals must be seated at least six (6) feet apart during meal and snack time or these activities must occur outdoors.

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Individuals who cannot medically tolerate a Face Covering are exempt from the requirements of this Order. Individuals who are hearing impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication are also exempt from the requirements of this Order.

This Order shall be applied in a manner consistent with the American with Disabilities Act (42U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act (42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*), the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (C.R.S. § 24-34-401 *et seq.*), and any other relevant federal or State law.

As allowed under state law, owners, operators, and managers of any business or service may, at their discretion, continue to require individuals entering or within their locations to wear a Face Covering or show proof of full vaccination.

This Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Executive Director of the Department of Public Health & Environment.

Issued by:



Robert M. McDonald
Public Health Administrator, City & County of Denver
Executive Director, Denver Dept of Public Health & Environment

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