



City of Fremont Executive Order ([EO 2020-03](#)) Requiring the Public Use of Face Coverings to Protect Essential Workers and Consumers

Frequently Asked Questions

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CITY OF FREMONT EXECUTIVE ORDER (EO 2020-03) REQUIRING THE PUBLIC USE OF FACE COVERINGS TO PROTECT ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND CONSUMERS

What is a face covering?

A face covering means any fabric or cloth that covers the mouth and nose.

How can I make my own face covering using items I already have at home?

A face covering can be made using household items (including scarves, bandanas, T-shirts, sweatshirts, towels, turtlenecks, or other fabric), can be sewn by hand, or factory-made. Additional information on face coverings and how to make your own covering can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Face-Coverings-Guidance.aspx>

Why should I wear a face covering?

Recent information from the Alameda County Public Health Department, California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has indicated that covering your nose and mouth can help slow the spread of COVID-19. Since individuals can be contagious before the onset of symptoms, it's possible someone may be contagious and do not know it. If you cover your nose and mouth, it can limit the spread of COVID-19. Another good reason to use face coverings is you touch your face less when your face is covered. Touching your face after touching something contaminated with COVID-19 increases your chances of getting sick with the disease.

Do I need to wear a face covering at certain essential places of business such as a grocery store?

Yes. As of April 16, 2020, until the local emergency is declared over, or unless otherwise stated, in Fremont all employees and customers/consumers are required to wear a face covering at certain essential places of business identified in [Executive Order 2020-03](#), including:

- All establishments engaged in the retail sale of unprepared food, canned food, dry goods, non-alcoholic beverages, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, as well as hygienic products and household consumer products necessary for personal hygiene or the habitability, sanitation, or operation of residences;
- Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and automotive dealerships;
- Bicycle repair and supply shops;
- Hardware stores;
- Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the habitability, sanitation, and operation of residences and Essential Businesses;
- Laundromats, drycleaners, and laundry service providers;
- Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food;
- Funeral home providers, mortuaries, cemeteries, and crematoriums;
- Businesses that have the primary function of shipping or delivering groceries, food, or other goods directly to residences or businesses.
- Taxis, rental car companies, rideshare services, and other private transportation providers; and
- Professional services, such as legal, notary, or accounting services.

These essential places of business must post a sign at the entrance to their businesses to increase an understanding of the Order.

Only certain essential businesses under the County Order are subject to this Executive Order. (Where public is running essential errands.)

Do I need to wear a face covering at a medical appointment if I am sick and going to the hospital or to the doctor's office?

If you must leave the home for essential medical visits, please wear a surgical mask or a face covering.

Do I need to wear a face covering while I'm out on a walk with members of my household?

Wearing a face covering is encouraged, but not required. If you cannot maintain the physical distance of 6 feet between your immediate family members and others, face coverings become required.

Do I need to wear a face covering while riding my bike or running?

Wearing a face covering is encouraged, but not required. Please note, you should not be jogging, running or biking with individuals outside of your immediate family at this time. If you cannot maintain the physical distance of 6 feet between your immediate family and others, face coverings become required.

Do I need to wear a face covering when walking my dog around the block?

This is encouraged, but not required. If you cannot maintain the 6 feet of physical distance between you and others outside of your immediate family, this becomes required.

Do I need to wear a face covering while at the park with my family?

A face covering while at the park is encouraged, but not required. If you cannot maintain the 6 feet of physical distance between you and others outside of your immediate family, this becomes required.

Do I still need to stay at least 6 feet away from someone if I'm wearing a cloth face covering?

Yes. Wearing cloth face coverings is an additional public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The CDC still recommends that you stay at least 6 feet away from other people (physical distancing), frequent hand washing and other everyday preventive actions. A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer, but it may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms.

View CDC's guidance on how to protect yourself: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

What kind of face covering should I be wearing?

Most of us can use cloth face coverings, which function as an extra tool that can protect others from possible exposure to respiratory droplets that may come from our mouth when we talk, sneeze or cough. N95 respiratory masks and surgical masks should be worn for protection by healthcare personnel and those workers who provide care to a person who might have COVID-19 or other communicable diseases.

Here is the link the CDC's ASL Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19:
<https://youtu.be/t9cnxxsEKpk>

Here is the link to the CDC's video of the Surgeon General making a face covering:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPx1yqvJgf4>

How will this Executive Order be enforced and what is the penalty?

This order (EO 2020-03) is enforceable by administrative citation only and is not a crime (misdemeanor or infraction). The administrative penalty of this order is \$100.

Can a business refuse service to patrons not wearing a face mask or covering?

Yes, if they have conspicuously posted a sign at the entrance of the business. If no sign is posted, they cannot refuse service.

How do I report a violation?

Please email fremontpolice@fremont.gov

How does wearing a face mask or covering help prevent the spread of COVID-19?

When worn by someone with COVID-19, even if they don't have symptoms, face coverings may reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others.

Since not everyone with COVID-19 knows that they are sick, wearing a face covering helps make sure that you are not unknowingly affecting others.

If worn by everyone when outside the home doing essential activities, this can help slow the overall spread of the virus and keep our community safer.

I don't have a face mask, scarf or bandana. Do I need to buy a face covering because of the Order?

No. The facial covering can be made using common household items, can be sewn by hand, or could be as simple as a bandana, scarf or cloth napkin. The covering can be secured to the head with ties, straps or simply wrapped around the lower part of the face. Homemade face coverings can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton, old T-shirts, denim, silk, or linen.

Visit the CDC's webpage on homemade face coverings, which also includes sew and no-sew face covering instructions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Is there anyone who should not wear a face covering?

Yes. Anyone who falls into the following categories should not wear a face covering:

- Anyone who is unable to remove the mask or covering without help
- Anyone who has trouble breathing or other respiratory problems, or is unconscious
- Children under the age of 2 years old

I have some protective face covering equipment, such as N95 masks, that I'd like to donate.

What can I do with them?

Many have asked how they can help support our firefighters, police officers, frontline healthcare personnel and essential workers in the City of Fremont. If you would like to donate or know of businesses that may be able to help with personal protective equipment like surgical masks, N95 face masks, face shields and other new supplies, please contact: (510-284-4000 or cof@fremont.gov)

I don't want to make a cloth face covering. Where can I buy one?

You can check the websites of your favorite local retailer or read this article about different locations to purchase face masks and cloth coverings online:

<https://www.cnet.com/how-to/11-places-to-buy-face-masks-and-cloth-coverings-online/>

Should cloth face coverings be washed or cleaned regularly? How often?

Yes. Cloth face covering should be routinely washed by hand or in a washing machine depending on the frequency of use.

Does my child need to wear a face covering?

It depends on the age of your child.

Ages 0 – 2: Do not wear a face covering.

Ages 2 – 8: Yes, can wear a face covering but under adult supervision to ensure that the child can breathe safely and avoid choking or suffocation.

Exception: If your child has breathing problems, such as asthma, do not have them wear a face covering.

When do children need to wear cloth face coverings? *

There are places where children should wear cloth face coverings. This includes places where they may not be able to avoid staying 6 feet away from others. For example, if you must take them to the doctor, pharmacy, or grocery store.

However, there are other places where children do NOT need to wear a cloth face covering:

At home, assuming they have not been exposed to anyone with COVID-19.

Outside, if they can stay at least 6 feet away from others and can avoid touching surfaces. For example, it's fine to take a walk as long as your children remain 6 feet away from others and do not touch tables, water fountains, playground equipment or other things that other people might have touched.

As a precaution, you may need to reconsider the use of cloth face coverings if:

- The face coverings are possible choking or strangulation hazards to your child.
- Wearing the cloth face covering causes your child to touch their face more frequently than not wearing it.

Staying home and physical distancing is still the best way to protect your family from COVID-19. For younger children who may not understand why they can't run up toward other people or touch things they shouldn't, it's best to keep them home. Children who are sick (fever, cough, congestion, runny nose, diarrhea, or vomiting) should not leave home.

What if my child is afraid of wearing a face covering? *

It's reasonable that children may be afraid of cloth face coverings at first.

Here are a few ideas to help make them seem less frightening:

- Look in the mirror with the face covering on and talk about it.
- Put a cloth face covering on a favorite stuffed animal.
- Decorate the face covering so it's more personalized and fun.
- Show your child pictures of other children wearing them.
- Draw a face covering on one of their favorite book or cartoon characters.
- Practice wearing the face covering at home to help your child get used to it.

For children under 3, it's best to answer their questions simply in language they understand. If they ask about why people are wearing cloth face coverings, explain that sometimes people wear them when they are sick, and when they are all better, they stop wearing them.

For children over 3, try focusing on germs. Explain that germs are special to your own body. Some germs are good and some are bad. The bad ones can make you sick. Since we can't always tell which are good or bad, the cloth face coverings help make sure you keep those germs away from your own body.

One of the biggest challenges with having children wear cloth face coverings relates to them "feeling different" or stereotyping them as being sick. As more people wear cloth face coverings, children will likely get used to them and not feel singled out or awkward about wearing them.

What about children with special healthcare needs? *

Children who are considered high-risk or severely immunocompromised are encouraged to wear an N95 mask for protection. Families of children at higher risk are encouraged to use a standard surgical mask if they are sick to help prevent the spread of illness to others. Children with severe cognitive or respiratory impairments may have a difficult time tolerating a cloth face covering. For these children, special precautions may be necessary.

*** Source:**

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/chest-lungs/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx>