

Broward County Emergency Orders **Facial Covering Frequently Asked Questions**

These Facial Covering Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQs”) have been updated through [Emergency Order 20-27](#) (“EO 20-27”). Any questions added or substantially modified as a result of EO 20-27 are marked with an asterisk.

1. *What is a facial covering? What does it do?*

Facial coverings (also known as “face masks”) help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help keep you and those around you safe. The use of facial coverings may reduce transmission of the virus by more than 50%. Facial coverings must be made of cloth, must cover your nose and your mouth, and must comply with the CDC recommendations. However, in accordance with CDC recommendations, facial coverings may be adapted to accommodate certain groups of people. For example, people who are hearing impaired, or those who care for or interact with a person who is hearing impaired may utilize a mask with a clear insert to allow lipreading. For CDC guidance on selection, use, and sanitization of facial coverings see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>.

2. *Can I use a face shield instead of a facial covering?**

No. Plastic facial shields may be worn in addition to facial coverings but are not a substitute for the required facial coverings. Plastic facial shields are not considered facial coverings and do not need to meet the facial covering requirements stated in Broward County Emergency Orders.

3. *Who has to wear a facial covering and when?*

Generally stated, facial coverings are required in the following instances:

- a. Any time people are outside of their residence if social distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be consistently maintained between persons not the same household. For purposes of this rule, a person’s residence includes their yard and extends to the edge of their residential property but does not include amenities that are part of a housing development.
- b. When visiting or using an amenity, including while entering, exiting, and otherwise moving around within the amenity, unless social distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained at all times from everyone not from your same household or group. An “amenity” means a park, pool, beach, or any portion of a multi-family housing property outside of a dwelling unit, primarily used for leisure or entertainment, including pools, community rooms, and athletic courts.
- c. When visiting or using establishments other than amenities (for amenities, see 3b above). This includes while entering, exiting, and otherwise moving around within

the establishment. This rule applies even when social distancing of at least 6 feet is also maintained; therefore, you must wear a facial covering when entering, inside, moving within, or leaving a store, even if no one is within 6 feet of you. The term “establishment” includes any retail, commercial, governmental, charitable, nonprofit, and other business, or organization.

- d. When working at any amenity or establishment. Workers must wear facial coverings while working even when social distancing of at least 6 feet is also maintained. This requirement applies to all workers including those involved in preparing, handling, or serving food.
- e. When visiting or using a common area at a multi-family housing development or residential facility. People visiting or using a common area of a multi-family housing development or residential facility, including in the reception area, hallways, and elevators, must wear a facial covering even when social distancing of at least 6 feet is also maintained.
- f. Facial coverings are also required to the extent expressly required by any Executive Order of the Governor and as expressly stated in any Attachment to the Broward County Emergency Orders.

4. Are there exceptions to the facial covering requirements?*

Yes, under certain limited circumstances. Although facial coverings are strongly encouraged when social distancing of at least 6 feet between people of different households cannot be consistently maintained, facial coverings are not required for the following persons under these specific circumstances:

- a. Children under the age of 2 (who should not wear facial coverings according to CDC Guidelines).
- b. Any child, regardless of age, while under the custody of a licensed childcare facility, including daycare centers.
- c. Persons for the shortest practical period of time that an activity makes wearing a facial covering impossible, such as eating, drinking, or while receiving a facial grooming. This exception applies to both establishments and to guests in private residences.
- d. A person with a disability or medical condition that prevents the person from wearing a facial covering. However, an establishment can refuse entry to a person not wearing a facial covering provided the establishment complies with any applicable Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
- e. Public health or safety, fire, or other life safety personnel, as their personal

protective equipment requirements will be governed by their respective agencies.

- f. While actively exercising; however, prior to commencing and immediately upon concluding an exercise activity, facial coverings must be worn. While exercising social distancing of at least 6 feet between people not of the same household or group must be maintained to the maximum extent reasonably possible.
- g. While swimming or physically in a body of water (such as a pool or the ocean), but social distancing of at least 6 feet between people not of the same household or group must be maintained to the maximum extent reasonably possible.
- h. Except for workers at a retail, restaurant, or food service establishment, bar, night club, personal services establishment, indoor amusement facility, gym, or fitness center, people who are working are not required to wear a facial covering if (i) they can consistently maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing from people of a different household or (ii) they are the only person in a room, provided that such room is not a common area or other shared space of the building or office space. Whenever 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained, solitary workers must resume wearing a facial covering.
- i. Residents never have to wear facial coverings within their personal residential property (indoors or outdoors). When there are no more than 4 guests at the residential property, visitors also do not have to wear facial coverings. If more than 4 visitors are present, then every visitor must wear facial coverings if the visitor cannot consistently maintain 6 feet of social distancing between the visitor and people from outside the visitor's household. This exception does not apply to in-home businesses conducting in-person transactions, which must comply with the requirements for establishments (see sections 3.c and 3.d above).

5. *Must schools comply with the County's facial covering requirements? What about after-school activities?**

Schools are not considered "establishments" within the scope of the County's Emergency Orders, and, therefore, are not subject to the requirements and guidelines imposed on establishments, including the facial covering requirements.

While the County's Emergency Orders do not regulate schools' academic activities, all non-academic after-school or extracurricular activities, such as organized sports or clubs, are required to comply with [Attachment 16](#), including the facial covering requirements in that attachment. If the after-school activity is an organized sporting event with spectators, the sporting event must be conducted in accordance with the guidelines in [Attachment 19](#), including the requirement that all spectators and event personnel wear facial coverings at all times. Referees must also wear facial coverings at all times except while actively officiating an organized sporting event.

6. Do I need to wear a facial covering when I have guests in my home? Do my guests need to wear a facial covering?

Residents never have to wear facial coverings within their personal residential property (indoors or outdoors). When there are no more than 4 visitors at the residential property, visitors also do not have to wear facial coverings, but it is still recommended that they do so. If more than 4 visitors are present, then every visitor must wear facial coverings if the visitor cannot consistently maintain 6 feet of social distancing between the visitor and people from outside the visitor's household.

7. Do I need to wear a facial covering in my home if I operate an in-home business? How about my customers?*

If the residence also functions as a business establishment that conducts in-person transactions, all applicable guidelines of Broward County Emergency Orders must be followed during all such transactions, including facial covering requirements (see FAQ #3). Workers at the establishment must wear facial coverings at all times except if (i) they can consistently maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing from people of a different household or (ii) they are the only person in a room, provided that such room is not a common area or other shared space. Whenever at least 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained, solitary workers must resume wearing a facial covering. This exception does not apply to workers if the in-home business operates as an establishment that is not included within the exception for solitary workers such as a retail or personal services establishment (see FAQ #4.h).

Patrons must wear facial coverings at all times.

8. Do I have to wear a facial covering at the gym?*

All patrons at a gym or fitness center (including similar establishments, such as dance studios, yoga studios, boxing clubs, etc.) must wear a facial covering at all times, except while actively exercising, having a pre-swim shower, or using the swimming pool.

9. What about at places that serve food or alcohol? Who has to wear facial coverings and when?*

You must wear a facial covering at all times while at an establishment that serves food or alcohol including when entering, exiting, and otherwise moving around within the establishment, except during the shortest practical period when you are actually eating or drinking. For example, the facial covering should be worn when arriving at the restaurant, while waiting to be seated (whether waiting inside or outside nearby the facility), while seated, while waiting to be served, when up and about, such as to use the facilities, and when the meal is completed and waiting to pay.

All staff at the establishment, including workers preparing, handling, or serving food or alcohol, must wear facial coverings at all times.

10. Do I have to wear a facial covering in the park?*

Generally, yes. Except when actively exercising in a park or swimming, facial coverings must be worn at parks if social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons not of the same household or group cannot be consistently maintained. Persons who are actively exercising or swimming do not have to wear a facial covering but must maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet to the maximum extent possible.

11. Do I have to wear a facial covering on the beach?*

Generally, yes, unless you are able to consistently maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons not of the same household or group. Unless another exception applies, such as swimming or actively exercising, facial coverings must be worn at all amenities, including at beaches, if social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons not of the same household or group cannot be consistently maintained. Persons who are actively exercising, swimming, or surfing do not have to wear a facial covering, but must maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing to the maximum extent practicable; all such persons should have a facial covering available and ready to use when not engaged in those activities, and be able to show their facial coverings upon request by local authorities.

12. Do I have to wear a facial covering while shopping at a retail store?

Yes. Unless another exception applies, facial coverings must be worn by persons obtaining goods or services at the grocery store, the mall, or any other retail establishment, regardless of whether social distancing is also maintained. Please note that these requirements apply both while inside the establishment and while entering or leaving the establishment, including while leaving for short periods of time.

13. Do I have to wear a facial covering at the pool? While I'm swimming? What about pool staff?

If the pool is at or part of a gym or fitness center, facial coverings must be worn the entire time except during the pre-swim shower or while in the pool, but social distancing of at least 6 feet should be maintained to the greatest extent possible. For all other pools and pool decks, such as those located in a multi-family housing development, unless another exception applies, facial coverings are required whenever social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons not of the same household or group cannot be consistently maintained (except when use of the pool necessarily precludes the wearing of a facial covering, such as while swimming). While in the pool, social distancing must be maintained to the maximum extent practicable. Pool staff must wear facial coverings at all times (except when deemed necessary to perform life-saving measures).

14. Do I have to wear a facial covering while out on my boat? What about at the marina?

Unless another exception applies, facial coverings must be worn at all times when social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons not of the same household cannot be consistently maintained. Therefore, you must wear a facial covering if you are on a boat and cannot

consistently maintain at least 6 feet of distance with persons not of the same household. In addition, while at the marina, when launching boats, and when patronizing ship (bait & tackle) stores, you must wear a facial covering at all times, regardless of whether social distancing is maintained. Staff must wear facial coverings at all times.

15. Do I have to wear a facial covering on the golf course?

Unless another exception applies, facial coverings are required to be worn on the golf course whenever social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons not of the same household cannot be consistently maintained. In addition, golf course and beverage cart staff must wear facial coverings at all times.

16. My office is now open. Do I have to wear a facial covering at work? Do my customers have to wear a facial covering?

Except for workers at a retail, restaurant, or food establishment, bar, night club, or personal services establishment, indoor personal services establishment, indoor amusement facility, gym, or fitness center, people who are working are not required to wear a facial covering if (i) they can consistently maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing from people of a different household or (ii) they are the only person in a room, provided that such room is not a common area or other shared space of the building or office space, such as a cubicle. Whenever 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained, solitary workers must resume wearing a facial covering.

All customers must wear facial coverings at all times, regardless of whether social distancing is maintained. Establishments must require customers, clients, and other visitors to the establishment to wear facial coverings in accordance with the requirements of Broward County Emergency Orders. No establishment may serve or transact business with any person or patron who does not comply with the facial covering requirements.

17. I'm getting a haircut, shave, manicure, or other personal service. Do I have to wear a facial covering if I am receiving a service? Does the stylist or service provider have to wear a facial covering?

Yes, you must wear a facial covering at all times except during the shortest practical period of time when the service requires removal of the facial covering, such as when obtaining a shave. Personal service employees must wear facial coverings at all times when working.

18. Do I have to wear a facial covering while at a hotel?

Guests must wear facial coverings at all times while outside their room if 6 feet between persons not of the same household cannot be consistently maintained. In addition, guests must wear facial coverings at all times, regardless of social distancing, in all public spaces, such as check-in areas, elevators, courtesy shuttles, business centers, and all other common spaces. Staff must wear facial coverings at all times.

19. I have a health condition that makes breathing while wearing a facial covering particularly difficult. Am I required to wear a facial covering?

There is a limited exception to the facial covering requirements if a disability or medical condition prevents you from wearing a facial covering. Establishments are encouraged to provide alternative methods to accommodate people who cannot wear facial coverings, such as curbside service or delivery.

20. I have a medical condition that does not allow me to wear a facial covering, but businesses are refusing to grant me access. Is that allowed? Do I need to show medical proof?

The County's Emergency Orders do not require that you provide medical proof of a health condition that renders you exempt from the requirement to wear a facial covering. Establishments are encouraged to provide alternative methods for such persons to patronize the establishment, such as providing curbside service or delivery; however, the establishment is not obligated to permit entry to people not wearing a facial covering and may refuse entry provided that the establishment complies with any applicable Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. If you believe an establishment is treating you inappropriately, you may want to discuss your concern with management of the establishment, if you feel comfortable doing so.

21. I have an exception to the facial covering requirements, but an establishment will not let me in. What can I do?

Broward County has established certain exceptions to the County requirements for facial coverings and encourages establishments to provide alternative methods for such persons to patronize the establishment. However, an establishment can refuse entry to a person not wearing a facial covering provided the establishment complies with any applicable Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Broward County Emergency Orders do not impose any obligation on any establishment to permit entry to people not wearing facial coverings. If you believe an establishment is treating you inappropriately, you may want to discuss your concern with management of the establishment, if you feel comfortable doing so.

22. Can I allow patrons to enter my establishment without facial coverings?*

No. Unless an exception to the facial covering requirements applies, all patrons in an establishment must wear facial coverings in accordance with the County's Emergency Orders. No establishment shall serve or transact business with any person or patron who is not complying with the facial covering requirements. A violation of this requirement is punishable as stated in FAQ #24 below.

23. How should I discard my facial covering?

Reusable facial coverings should be properly sanitized after each use per CDC guidelines. Disposable facial coverings and other disposable personal protective equipment, such as masks and gloves, must be discarded properly in a waste receptacle; littering of facial coverings or other personal protective equipment is a separate violation of the County's Emergency Order and is also prohibited under Section 403.413, Florida Statutes.

24. What are the consequences of violating an Emergency Order? Does that apply to the facial covering requirements?

Violation of any Emergency Order, including the facial covering requirements, may be subject to civil and/or criminal enforcement action. Civil enforcement of a violation may include fines of \$1,000 per day per violation, except where the violation is knowing and irreparable/irreversible, in which event civil enforcement may include fines up to \$15,000 per violation. Criminal enforcement of a violation as a second-degree misdemeanor may include fines of up to \$500 per day, imprisonment up to 60 days, or both. [[Section 8-56, Broward County Code of Ordinances](#)]. These penalties may be imposed on any individual who fails to comply with the facial covering requirements and on any establishment that allows employees or patrons to violate the facial covering requirements. Any establishment cited by the applicable code enforcement or law enforcement authority for violating any Emergency Order (including the facial covering requirements) must immediately close for a minimum period of at least 24 hours for a first offense (increased for subsequent violations) and may only reopen after complying with certain conditions. Reopening in violation of [EO 20-21](#) is a separate violation.

25. Can an individual be cited for not complying with Broward County Emergency Orders, including facial covering requirements, under the Governor's Phase 3 Executive Order?*

Yes. While the collection of fines and penalties against individuals is currently suspended per Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 20-244, individuals may still be cited. Citations will continue to be issued against individuals and businesses, and fines and penalties will continue to be imposed against establishments violating any provision of any Broward County Emergency Order. Fines and penalties assessed against individuals will be collected upon expiration of the Governor's suspension of the collection of fines and penalties against individuals. Fines and penalties against businesses and establishments will continue to be issued and collected.

26. How do I report a violation of the Emergency Orders?

If you know or suspect that an establishment is in violation of an applicable order, you should report the suspected violation to 311 or to the applicable local municipal code enforcement.

27. May municipalities impose additional, stricter limitations on facial coverings?

Yes. Municipalities may have stricter limitations than the County. Any more stringent requirements imposed by a municipality would be in addition to the requirements stated in the Broward County Emergency Orders. Please check with your municipality for additional restrictions.

28. How can I contact the County if I have any questions or comments about COVID-19 or the County's Emergency Orders?

Call the COVID-19 Hotline at (954) 357-9500.

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