

Martin County passes ordinance requiring face coverings

On August 25, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners passed an ordinance requiring persons wear face coverings in public places.

The ordinance shall immediately take effect upon filing with the Office of Secretary of State and shall remain in effect until the expiration of Martin County's State of Local Emergency, as may be extended by subsequent order or declaration or upon repeal by the Board, whichever occurs earlier. View the ordinance summary and exemptions below.

Persons must wear face coverings in public as follows:

Indoor Public Places, Businesses and Establishments - Face coverings must be worn by all persons, while obtaining or providing any goods or services or otherwise visiting or working in any indoor public places, businesses or establishments where the presence of another person is probable.

Outdoor Public Places, Businesses and Establishments - Face coverings must be worn by all persons, while obtaining or providing any goods or services or otherwise visiting or working in any outdoor public places, businesses or establishments where social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines is not possible and/or not being practiced.

Restaurants and Food Service Establishments - Face coverings must be worn by all persons in restaurants and food service establishments, whether indoors or outdoors, except when actively consuming food or beverages.

County and Municipal Governmental Facilities - All members of the public accessing governmental buildings for the purposes of conducting public business, visitation, contracting and maintenance, delivery or any other activity requiring a presence in a governmental building shall wear face coverings at all times while present in the building, excluding those persons exercising their right to vote. Governmental buildings shall mean any Martin County or municipal-owned and/or operated buildings, including, but not limited to, office buildings, fire rescue stations, service centers, recreational facilities and libraries.

Businesses and Establishments - Businesses and establishments include, but are not limited to, restaurants, bars, retail stores, salons, massage parlors, tattoo parlors, hotels, grocery stores, gyms, fitness centers, pharmacies, indoor recreational facilities, hospitals, medical offices, dental offices, movie theaters, concert halls, auditoriums, bowling alleys, playhouses, arcades, public transit and vehicles for hire.

Exemptions

Face coverings are not required for the following persons:

- Children either under the age of six (6) or in the custody of a licensed childcare facility, including schools, summer camps and daycare centers
- Persons prohibited from wearing face coverings by federal or state safety or health regulations
- Public safety, fire or other life safety personnel that have personal protective equipment requirements governed by their agencies
- Persons actively engaged in exercise and who are social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines
- Persons providing or receiving goods and services from a business or establishment for the shortest practical period of time during which the receipt of such goods or services necessarily precludes the wearing of a face covering such as, but not limited to, consuming food or beverage or receiving dental services, facial grooming or treatment
- Persons who have a medical condition or disability that makes the wearing of a face covering unsafe
- Persons assisting individuals who are hearing impaired or who rely on reading lips in order to communicate may temporarily remove face coverings
- Persons in private rooms of a lodging establishment, such as a hotel, motel or vacation rental; however, face coverings must be worn in all indoor common areas
- Persons engaged in outdoor work or recreation with appropriate social distancing pursuant to CDC guidelines in place and being practiced

To view the ordinance summary, FAQs and other COVID-19 information related to Martin County, visit www.martin.fl.us/Coronavirus. Visit www.martin.fl.us, Martin County's online resource for services and county information. To connect with us on social media, follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and subscribe to our [Youtube Channel](#).

For health questions related to COVID-19, residents can call the 24-hour Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Call Center at 866-779-6121 or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov. Information is also available on the FDOH [website](#).