



Face Coverings Frequently Asked Questions

Coconino County Health and Human Services

Updated: June 30, 2020

Q: Does the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend wearing a face covering/mask?

A: Yes, the CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other physically distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based COVID-19 transmission.

- Cloth face coverings may slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.
- Cloth face coverings can be made from household items.

Q: Do face coverings/masks provide protection from COVID-19?

A: According to the Mayo Clinic, wearing cloth masks can help reduce the spread of the coronavirus by people who have COVID-19 but don't realize it. Countries that required face masks, testing, isolation and physically distancing early in the pandemic had success slowing the spread of the virus.

Q: Why are face coverings/masks required in Coconino County?

A: Currently, there is significant community-based transmission of the COVID-19 virus in our communities. Based on CDC guidance, Coconino County adopted a Proclamation requiring masks, with some exceptions, to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protect the public health, and provide essential protections to vulnerable residents of Coconino County. The County was provided the authority by Executive Order 2020-07 and under the County's Declaration of a Public Health Emergency adopted on March 18, 2020.

Q: When are face coverings/masks required to be worn?

A: Face coverings are required to be worn while within the unincorporated areas of Coconino County under the following circumstances:

- When in a public indoor space if another person is present.
- When in public outdoor spaces if another non-household person is less than 6 feet away.
- When in the public areas of any business or government building.
- When waiting in line indoors and outdoors.

Face coverings are not required when at home, while eating or drinking, while swimming, while working alone in a workplace when six feet of physical distance is present, when alone in vehicle or in a vehicle with household members, or when exercising alone or with household members.

Q: Are there any exemptions to the face covering/mask requirement?

A: The requirement to wear face coverings does not apply to children 2 years of age and under, those whose religious beliefs prevent them from wearing a face covering, or anyone who has trouble breathing or any other disability precluding them from wearing a face covering, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance. Parents and guardians of children age 3 to 5 years old shall use their best efforts to keep face coverings on their children as recommended by the CDC and required by this Proclamation.

Q: Should workers wear a cloth face covering/mask while at work, in accordance with the CDC recommendation for all people to do so when in public?

A: Consistent with the CDC recommendation for all people to wear cloth face coverings when in public and around other people, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) generally recommends that employees wear face coverings at work. Wearing cloth face coverings, if appropriate for the work environment and job tasks, conserves other types of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as surgical masks, for healthcare settings where such equipment is needed most.

Q: What happens if someone fails to wear a face covering/mask in public when physical distancing is not possible?

A: The goal of the Proclamation and mask requirement is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Efforts will be focused on informing the public and individuals of the benefit of wearing a mask to protect themselves and others from illness. Individuals failing to wear a face covering as required by the Proclamation shall be notified that face coverings are mandatory in public places, provided education regarding public health prevention methods and given an opportunity to comply.

Upon an individual's second time failing to wear a face covering as required by the Proclamation, the individual again shall be notified that face coverings are mandatory in public places, provided education regarding public health prevention methods, given an opportunity to comply, and given a warning that another incident shall result in a citation.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-317, the 3rd violation of the Proclamation is a class 1 misdemeanor. More information is available at <https://coconino.az.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2200>.

Q: What qualifies as a face covering/mask?

A: A face covering as required by the Proclamation can be made from a tight-fitting cloth, fabric or other permeable material without holes. The CDC suggests wearing a tight-fitting cloth mask using two layers of tightly woven 100 percent cotton fabric folded in multiple layers.

Q: Where can I get a face covering or mask?

A: Information on the use of cloth face coverings to help slow the spread of COVID-19, including how to sew your own and tips on care is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>. Masks are also available at many online retail outlets.

Q. What are the proper steps to clean a mask?

A. How to clean

Washing machine

- You can include your face covering with your regular laundry.
- Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the face covering.

Washing by hand

- Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
 - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) household bleach per gallon of room temperature water or
 - 4 teaspoons household bleach per quart of room temperature water
- Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection. Some bleach products, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing, may not be suitable for disinfection. Ensure the bleach product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.
- Soak the face covering in the bleach solution for 5 minutes.
- Rinse thoroughly with cool or room temperature water.

How to dry

Dryer

- Use the highest heat setting and leave in the dryer until completely dry.

Air dry

- Lay flat and allow to completely dry. If possible, place the cloth face covering in direct sunlight.

Q. How do I put on and take off a face covering?

A. Wear your Face Covering Correctly

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily

Take off your Face Covering Carefully

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place coverings in the washing machine or hand wash
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing

Q: Are there other prevention methods that I should follow to reduce my risk of COVID-19 exposure?

A: The County encourages residents and visitors to continue to follow best practices and guidance to prevent COVID-19 transmission including staying home when sick, not gathering in large numbers, maintaining physical distance of at least 6 feet apart from others and washing or sanitizing your hands frequently. Combining these practices with wearing a face covering will greatly help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

A copy of the Coconino County proclamation can be found at www.coconino.az.gov/covid19

For more information or to see all current guidance on COVID-19,
please visit www.coconino.az.gov/covid19
or call the Coconino County COVID-19 Information Line at 928-679-7300.

