

SUMMARY OF PA DOH UPDATED MASK ORDER – Nov 18, 2020

Section 1: Definitions

“Alternative to a face covering” may include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth, extends below the chin and to the ears, and leaves no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield’s headpiece.

“Face covering” means covering of the nose and mouth with material that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face.

“Physical distancing” means the practice of staying at least six feet away from others. Social distancing is the term that was used earlier in the pandemic as many people stayed home to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Now, the term physical distancing is used to stress the importance of maintaining physical space when in public areas.

Section 2: Face Coverings Required

Except as provided in Section 3, every individual, age two and older, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall wear a face covering when:

- A. Indoors or in an enclosed space, where another person or persons who are not members of the individual’s household are present in the same space, irrespective of physical distance.
- B. Outdoors with others who are not members of a person’s household and unable to maintain sustained physical distance.
- D. Participating in indoor physical activity in a gym, fitness center or group fitness classes, where another person or persons who are not members of the individual’s household are present in the same space, irrespective of physical distance.

Section 3: Exceptions to Covering Requirement

- A. If wearing a face covering while working would create an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- B. If wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability.
- E. When working alone and isolated from interaction with other people with little or no expectation of in-person interaction.

- **Mask breaks can still be taken (no more than 10 minutes, at least 6 feet apart)**
- **We can still allow students to eat without wearing a mask.**
- **Until we are told different, exercise is not an exemption from wearing masks.**
- **Winter sports participants will be required to wear a mask while on the court or on the sideline.**

Masking Order Q & A:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx>

Under what circumstances are students permitted to remove their face coverings?

School entities may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least six feet apart; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or
- At least six feet apart during "face-covering breaks" to last no longer than 10 minutes.
- **Does the Order require individuals to wear masks when participating in indoor physical activity?**
Yes, a person must wear a face covering when participating in indoor physical activity where another person or persons who are not members of the individual's household are present in the same space, irrespective of physical distance. Face coverings need not be worn if the person meets one of the exceptions in Section 3 of the Order.
- **Does the Order apply to athletes and sports activities?**
Yes. Everyone who participates in sport activities including coaches, athletes (including cheerleaders), and spectators must wear a face covering, such as a mask, unless they fall under an exception in Section 3 of the Order.
- **Indoors:** Coaches, athletes (including cheerleaders), and spectators must wear face coverings, when indoors and where another person or persons who are not members of the individual's household are present in the same space, irrespective of physical distance. This includes while actively engaged in workouts, competition, and on the sidelines, etc.
- **Outdoors:** Coaches, athletes (including cheerleaders), and spectators must wear face coverings if they cannot maintain sustained physical distance from persons outside of their household. This includes while actively engaged in workouts, competition, and on the sidelines, in the dugout, etc. If sustained six-foot distancing can be maintained, face coverings may be removed when outdoors.