



Guidance for Implementing Order 8

Public Health Order 8, effective June 29, 2020, states that:

All businesses, facilities, commercial venues, and critical infrastructure sectors **shall require**:

1. Customers and visitors to wear a face covering while inside the business, facility, or workplace, or at a worksite; and
2. Employees to wear a face covering when physical interacting with the public and other employees.

Additionally, property managers and building managers **shall require**:

1. Persons entering or walking through interior “common areas” of commercial buildings, residential apartment or condominium buildings, and residential cooperative buildings to wear face coverings. “Common areas” include lobby reception areas, hallways, elevators, mailrooms, clubhouse/meeting rooms, and stairwells.

There are several ways business owners may attempt to achieve customer compliance with Order 8 inside their establishments, including but not limited to:

- Posting conspicuous signage at all public entrances indicating the mask requirement (this measure is mandated by Order 8)
- Dedicating a management-level employee to ensuring compliance with Order 8
- Providing PPE for any patron entering the establishment without a mask or face covering
- Refusing service to any patron not wearing a mask, for any reason other than the circumstances listed as exempt in Order 8, Section 2
- Utilizing take-out, curbside pick-up, and delivery options
- Utilizing additional resources at <https://www.asafenashville.org/mask-resources/>

Persons violating Public Health Order 8 shall be subject to civil and criminal penalties, including punishment as a Class C Misdemeanor pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 68-2-602.

Order 8 Frequently Asked Questions

When am I exempt from wearing a face covering in public?

All exempt circumstances are listed in [Public Health Order 8, Section 2](#). Settings and circumstances exempting a person from wearing a face covering in public include:

- Within your own residence or another's residence
- By children aged twelve year or less (Children 2 and under **shall not** wear a mask due to the danger of suffocation)
- When it is medically unsafe to wear a face covering
- Within you own motor vehicle, provided the vehicle is not being used for public transportation or hire (such as ride shares)
- Within educational institutions, subject to the conditions in *Nashville Plan: A Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School* for K-12 schools and to the individual plans of higher educational institutions
- When working alone in separate office spaces or non-public workplaces
- When wearing a face covering poses a safety risk or security risk
- When eating or drinking in a public establishment
- While outdoors in public spaces, unless unable to maintain social distancing
- While engaged in outdoor work or recreation, unless unable to maintain social distancing
- While in a place of worship
- While in a building or indoor space owned, managed, or leased by the State of Tennessee or federal government

Do children at day camps have to wear face coverings?

Per Public Health Order 8, face coverings are not required to be worn by any child aged twelve years or less. Any child aged two years or less shall not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation. Children (ages three through twelve) attending day camps and family camps this summer may be recommended to wear a face covering in certain settings and circumstances, but it is not required. The use of face coverings at day camps can be particularly effective in reducing virus spreading when children are unable to socially distance, such as on bus rides and in indoor facilities. Day camps and family camps should continue to implement additional safety measures for campers as required in Public Health Order 7 and recommended by MPHD, including symptom screening, keeping campers in cohorts, frequent hand washing, and social distancing. Additional guidance can be found online at <https://www.asafenashville.org/phase-3-roadmap-for-reopening/#camps>.

Do patrons in bars and restaurants have to wear face coverings?

Patrons in bars and restaurants are only exempt from wearing face coverings while in the act of eating or drinking. Face coverings should be worn at all other times such as entering/exiting the establishment, walking to the table, ordering from a server or bartender, waiting for carry-out, and going to the restroom. A good rule of thumb is, if you're standing up you should probably have a mask on.

Do patrons in gyms and fitness facilities have to wear face coverings?

Patrons in gyms and fitness facilities are only exempt from wearing a face covering if doing so poses a safety risk because of engagement in heavy physical activity. Face coverings should be worn at all other times such as entering/exiting the establishment, in all common areas such as hallways and locker rooms, and during fitness activities that do not pose a safety risk to patrons wearing a face covering. Additionally, social distancing shall be increased to 10 feet for all aerobic activity (per Public Health Order 7).

Do I have to wear a face covering in my own residential building?

Face coverings must be worn by persons in all interior common areas of buildings. Common areas include lobby/reception areas, hallways, elevators, mailrooms, clubhouse/meeting rooms, stairwells, etc.