

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FACE COVERING & MASK ORDINANCE

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?
CONTACT MAYOR REED AT MAYOR@MONTGOMERYAL.GOV

#MASKUPMGM #MGMREADY
WWW.MGMREADY.COM

The Montgomery City Council passed an ordinance on July 7th, 2020 that requires face coverings or masks in public places in the City of Montgomery to slow the spread of COVID-19. The ordinance took effect immediately upon passage and supersedes Mayor Steven L. Reed's executive order from June 17th. It will remain in effect for 30 days, unless the Council votes to repeal or amend at its July 21st meeting.

Q. WHERE AND WHEN ARE FACE COVERINGS OR MASKS REQUIRED?

A. Face coverings, masks or shields shall be worn at all times over the nostrils and mouth by persons over the age of six (6) years and who can medically tolerate doing so when in public places consisting of gatherings of more than 10 persons within the City of Montgomery. The requirement to wear face coverings or masks shall apply to all persons, whether employees or customers or clients of businesses within the City of Montgomery.

Q. ARE PRIVATE BUSINESSES, VENUES, STORES, OFFICES, ETC. CONSIDERED "PUBLIC PLACES" UNDER THE ORDINANCE?

A. Yes.

Q. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "MEDICALLY TOLERATE" DOING?

A. We recognize that some people may have health conditions in which wearing a mask may pose a greater mental or physical health risk. Residents who have a legitimate health issue in which wearing a mask further endangers their health are exempt from wearing a face covering or mask. This exception should not be exploited by people who simply do not believe in wearing a covering their face. Those with legitimate health issues that prevent them from wearing a mask are encouraged to have documentation from a physician stating that they cannot wear a mask or face covering.

Q. WHY IS THIS ORDINANCE NECESSARY?

A. To protect and save lives. Montgomery continues to see an alarming number of COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths resulting from the virus. National, state and local medical experts overwhelmingly recommend wearing a face covering or mask to further aid in slowing the spread of the virus because it reduces the chances of symptomatic and asymptomatic people transmitting the virus to others. A medical expert recently said, "At the moment we have to make a decision in the face of uncertainty, and my goodness, it's going to be a disastrous decision if we get it wrong. So why not just mask up for a few weeks, just in case?"

Q. WHY ARE BUSINESSES REQUIRED TO BE COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN THIS EFFORT?

A. The best way to slow the spread is by having everyone do their part to take necessary precautions. Without businesses doing their part to require masks/face coverings, it is that much harder to contain the spread. . This is no different than requiring business to follow other existing health and safety regulations or requiring their customers to wear certain attire when entering.

Q. HOW WILL THE FACE COVERING AND MASK REQUIREMENT BE ENFORCED?

A. Businesses and employers are required to be community partners in this effort by ensuring employees and customers wear face coverings or masks. Businesses can turn away anyone who refuses to wear a face covering or mask. Failure to comply the face coverings or mask requirement can be enforced by a uniform non-traffic citation fine of \$25.00 for individuals and \$500.00 for businesses. Businesses who fail to comply a second time can be subject to a 14-day suspension of their business license pending a hearing of the City Council.

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Q. UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES DO I NOT NEED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING OR MASK?

- A.** - Outdoor exercise, for example, walking or jogging, but must be worn when encountering and interacting with groups of other people in a park or other public place.
- In the privacy of one's own residence or another's residence.
 - Within one's own motor vehicle or another's motor vehicle.
 - Patients in examination rooms of medical or dental offices or clinics or hospitals where there is a necessity to examine or treat the mouth or nasal area, subject to the direction of the medical or dental professionals in charge of the office, clinic or hospital.
 - When wearing a face covering or mask poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk such as anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.
 - At daycares and other childcare establishments where the consistent use of face coverings or masks are not possible due to supervision of multiple children.

Q. DO I NEED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING OR MASK IN A RESTAURANT OR BAR?

- A.** Yes. Masks or face coverings may only be removed when one's food arrives at the table or to consume a beverage. Otherwise, the mask or face covering must be worn while in the establishment.

Q. ARE FACE COVERINGS OR MASKS REQUIRED AT CHILDCARE FACILITIES?

- A.** Where the consistent use of face coverings or masks are not possible due to supervision of multiple children, the facility shall adhere to sanitary, hygienic and face covering practices to the maximum extent practicable.

Q. WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM NOT SURE WHETHER A FACE COVERING OR MASK IS REQUIRED IN A PARTICULAR SITUATION?

- A.** Err on the side of caution by wearing a face covering or mask. This simple gesture can make a big difference in protecting your health or someone else's health.

Q. ARE RETAIL STORES, RESTAURANTS, BARS AND NIGHTCLUBS ALLOWED TO OPERATE AT FULL OCCUPANCY?

- A.** No. Retail stores, restaurants, bars and nightclubs are limited to no more than 50 percent of the normal occupancy determined by the fire marshal. This will ensure adequate social distancing. Additionally, establishments that serve food or drinks shall limit the party size at tables to no more than eight persons and maintain at least six feet of separation between people seated at different tables, booths, chairs, or stools.

Q. WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR RETAIL STORES, RESTAURANTS, BARS AND NIGHTCLUBS THAT FAIL TO ABIDE BY THESE OCCUPANCY AND SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS?

- A.** Failure to comply with the requirement on retail stores is enforceable under Section 22-2-14 of the Code of Alabama, which states: "Any person who knowingly violates or fails or refuses to obey or comply with any rule or regulation adopted and promulgated by the State Board of Health of this state shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$500.00 and, if the violation or failure or refusal to obey or comply with such rule or regulation is a continuing one, each day's violation, or failure or refusal shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punished accordingly."

Failure to comply with the requirement on restaurants, bars and nightclubs is subject to the enforcement provisions of Sec. 6-4 of the City Code, which includes fines on the business between \$25.00 to \$100.00 per person depending on how much the establishment is over permissible occupancy. Businesses who fail to comply a second time can be subject to a 14-day suspension of their business license pending a hearing of the City Council.

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Q. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS AT SPORTING ACTIVITIES?

A. Players, coaches, officials, and spectators at sporting events shall not congregate within 6 feet of a person from another household except to the extent necessary—and only to the extent necessary—for players, coaches, and officials to directly participate in the athletic activity.

Players, coaches, officials, and spectators shall refrain from high fives, handshakes, and other physical contact except to the extent necessary—and only to the extent necessary—for players, coaches, and officials to directly participate in the athletic activity.

Players, coaches, and officials shall wear a mask or other facial covering that covers his or her nostrils and mouth at all times except when a player or official is directly participating in the athletic activity.

Q. WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE AT SPORTING ACTIVITIES?

A. Failure to comply with the requirement at sporting events is enforceable under Section 22-2-14 of the Code of Alabama, which states: “Any person who knowingly violates or fails or refuses to obey or comply with any rule or regulation adopted and promulgated by the State Board of Health of this state shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$500.00 and, if the violation or failure or refusal to obey or comply with such rule or regulation is a continuing one, each day’s violation, or failure or refusal shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punished accordingly.”

Q. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS AT CLOSE-CONTACT SERVICE PROVIDERS SUCH AS HAIR SALONS AND BARBERSHOPS?

A. Barber shops, hair salons, waxing salons, threading salons, nail salons and spas, body art facilities, tattoo services, and massage therapy establishments and services—shall not knowingly allow clients or persons accompanying a client to congregate within six feet of a person from another household. Each employee shall wear a mask, or other facial covering that covers his or her nostrils and mouth, at all times while providing services within 6 feet of a client. Employees shall wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately before providing services within 6 feet of a client.

Q. WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE AT CLOSE-CONTACT SERVICE PROVIDERS?

A. Failure to comply with the requirement at sporting events is enforceable under Section 22-2-14 of the Code of Alabama, which states: “Any person who knowingly violates or fails or refuses to obey or comply with any rule or regulation adopted and promulgated by the State Board of Health of this state shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$500.00 and, if the violation or failure or refusal to obey or comply with such rule or regulation is a continuing one, each day’s violation, or failure or refusal shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punished accordingly.”

Q. HOW CAN I REPORT A BUSINESS THAT IS NOT COMPLYING WITH THE ORDINANCE?

A. Call the city’s non-emergency number 3-1-1.

Q. WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR AN ORDINANCE IF THE MAYOR ALREADY ISSUED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER?

A. There is a need for an ordinance so the city can hold city-licensed businesses accountable for non-compliance.

Q. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ORDER?

A. Please email mayor@montgomeryal.gov and include your phone number in your message.

YOUR RESPONSE MATTERS PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR 2020 CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE

THE AMOUNT OF FEDERAL DOLLARS THAT MONTGOMERY GETS FOR SCHOOL LUNCHESES, HEAD START, PRE-K, SPECIAL EDUCATION, HEALTH CLINICS, FIRE STATIONS AND MUCH MORE DEPENDS ON HOW MANY PEOPLE IN MONTGOMERY FILL OUT THE CENSUS!

REMEMBER

- NO SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IS USED
- YOUR INFORMATION IS NOT SHARED WITH THE IRS, ICE, DHR, OR ANY AGENCY
- IT ONLY TAKES 5-10 MINUTES TO COMPLETE
- COMPLETING IT NOW KEEPS THE CENSUS TAKER AWAY FROM YOUR HOME

HOW TO COMPLETE THE 2020 CENSUS

1. Visit www.my2020census.gov to complete it online or call 1-844-330-2020 to complete it
2. **Count EVERYONE** who will be living in the household as of April 1st: babies, children, & adults
3. **HINT:** Have everyone's birthdates in front of you when you start
4. The 2020 Census Questionnaire **only has 10 questions** for you to answer

**WHILE WE ARE ALL STAYING HOME AND PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY,
LET'S MAKE SURE WE GET OUR SHARE OF FEDERAL DOLLARS!**

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR 2020 CENSUS FORM, WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

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