



**Applying Emergency Executive Order 20-81,  
Requiring Minnesotans to Wear a Face Covering in Certain Settings  
to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 to Minnesota State**

**July 24, 2020**

**Purpose:** The matrix below is intend to serve as a guide in applying the standards and expectations set out in Governor Walz Emergency [Executive Order \(EO\) 20-81](#), *Requiring Minnesotans to Wearer a Face Covering in Certain Settings to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19* to college and university settings and the system office of Minnesota State.

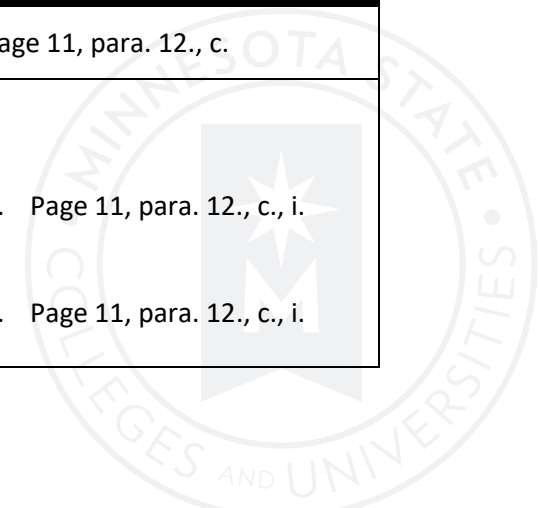
**General:** Effective Friday, July 24, 2020 at 11:59PM, Minnesotans must wear a face covering in indoor businesses and indoor public settings and workers must also wear face coverings outdoors when it is not possible to maintain social distancing.

Minnesota State colleges, universities, and system office are subject to this EO including all campus and leased spaces. Nothing in EO 20-81 should be construed to prevent a college or university from developing a policy that imposes more protective requirements with respect to face coverings, consistent with applicable law, than those in the EO or applicable industry guidelines.

Governor Walz strongly encourages everyone to have a face covering with them at all times.

As a reminder, wearing face coverings is not a substitute for frequent hand washing, avoiding touching the face, and practicing social distancing, which are the best tools to help prevent the spread of illness.

General EO Provisions	Standard	EO Reference
Buildings and indoor spaces	Wear a face covering in compliance with EO 20-81	Page 11, para. 12., c.
Exemptions – higher education	Student and Faculty may wear a face shield instead of mask when: 1. Faculty when teaching where it is important for face to be seen 2. Students in classroom activities where it is	1. Page 11, para. 12., c., i. 2. Page 11, para. 12., c., i.



	<p>important for face to be seen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where face covering may pose a hazard</li> <li>Staff or faculty providing direct support to student and face covering impedes the service</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 11, para. 12., c., ii.</li> <li>Page 11, para. 12., c., iii.</li> </ol>
Exemptions – general	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health condition or disability</li> <li>Children 5 years old and younger</li> <li>Where wear creates a job hazard</li> <li>Living unit, meaning home, dormitory room, apartments</li> <li>Private vehicle for private purposes</li> <li>Working outdoors where physical, social distancing can be maintained</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 4, para. 8., a.</li> <li>Page 5, para. 8., b.</li> <li>Page 5, para. 8., c.</li> <li>Page 5, para. 9., a., i.</li> <li>Page 5, para. 9., a., ii.</li> <li>Page 5, para. 9., d.</li> </ol>
Temporary removal authorized	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certain indoor sports and exercise activities</li> <li>Certain indoor speaking or performance activities</li> <li>Indoor musical (wind) instrument practice or performance</li> <li>Indoor eating and drinking</li> <li>Communicating with hearing impair and other health conditions</li> <li>Receiving certain dental, medical or personal care services</li> <li>When alone in an office, room, or certain cubicles</li> <li>When alone vehicle or heavy machinery cab</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 6, para. 10., a., and b.</li> <li>Page 6, para. 10., c.</li> <li>Page 6, para. 10., d.</li> <li>Page 6, para. 10., f.</li> <li>Page 6, para. 10., h.</li> <li>Page 6, para. 10., i.</li> <li>Page 7, para. 10., j.</li> <li>Page 7, para. 10., k.</li> </ol>
Face mask – alternatives	Clear face shield	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 4, para. 8., a.</li> <li>Page 5, para. 9., e.</li> <li>Page 6, para. 10., c.</li> <li>Page 7, para. 12.</li> </ol>
COVID-19 Preparedness Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update COVID-19 Preparedness Plan</li> <li>Notify and post signs</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 12, para. 13.</li> <li>Page 12, para. 14.</li> </ol>

	3. More protective polices than EO permitted	3. Page 12, para. 16., page and page 13., para. 18.
Demonstrating compliance with EO 20-81	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students and employees wearing face coverings as required by the EO</li> <li>2. Updated COVID-19 Preparedness Plan to address the face covering requirements</li> <li>3. Posted signs instructing wear of face coverings</li> <li>4. Making reasonable efforts of enforcement</li> </ol>	Page 13, para. 20., b., i.

Campus Setting	Standard	Reference
Classrooms and Labs – Faculty	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. May wear face shield instead of mask</li> <li>2. May temporarily remove face covering when speaking in lecture</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Page 11, para. 12., c., i., ii., and iii.</li> <li>2. Page 6, para. 10., c.,</li> </ol>
Classrooms and Labs – Students	<p>May wear face shield instead of mask when</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facial expression is needed</li> <li>2. Mask poses a hazard</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Page 11, para. 12., c., i.</li> <li>2. Page 11, para. 12., c., ii.</li> </ol>
Student Services – Staff	<p>May wear a face shield instead of mask when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing direct support to student and face covering impedes the service</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Page 11, para. 12., c., iii.</li> </ol>
Offices	Temporary removal of mask is authorized when alone in an office, room, or certain cubicles	Page 7, para. 10., j.
Residence Halls	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Residents in their rooms are not required to wear masks</li> <li>2. Workers and visitors required to wear a mask</li> <li>3. Residents may temporarily remove mask when showering</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Page 5., para. 9., a., i.</li> <li>2. Page 5., para. 9., a., i.</li> <li>3. Page 6., para. 10., e.</li> </ol>
Transportation: public transportation, taxis, ridesharing and work vehicles used for business purposes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wear a face covering</li> <li>2. May temporarily remove mask or face covering if alone in a vehicle or cab of heavy machinery</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Page 5, para. 9., b.</li> <li>2. Page 7, para. 10., j.</li> </ol>
Indoor music and theater programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. May temporarily remove face covering</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Page 6, para. 10., c. and d.</li> </ol>

<p>Gyms, fitness and wellness centers</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trainers and staff should wear a mask</li> <li>2. Masks may be temporarily removed during times of heavy exertion</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Page 5, para. 9.</li> <li>2. Page 6, para. 10., a., and b.</li> </ol>
<p>Dining, coffee shops and food court amenities</p>	<p>Masks may be temporarily removed while eating and drinking</p> <p>All workers must wear face coverings as required by EO. Additionally:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Workers to wear a face covering when working outdoors in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained.</li> <li>2. Allows workers to wear face shields when a cloth face covering cannot be worn—such as when working in hot kitchens.</li> <li>3. Requires workers who have face-to-face interactions with customers to wear <b>both</b> a face covering and face shield when the customer is not wearing a face covering and it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet from the customer.</li> <li>4. Customers must wear face coverings in indoor public settings and indoor businesses—including restaurants and bars—although individuals are permitted to remove their face coverings temporarily when eating or drinking provided that at least 6 feet of physical distance can be maintained between parties.</li> </ol>	<p>Page 6, para. 10., f</p> <p>See Industry specific guidance below for Restaurants and Bars</p>

## **Additional Resources:**

### **Minnesota Department of Health:**

- Face Covering Requirements and Recommendations under Executive Order 20-81:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html>
- Frequently Asked Questions About the Requirement to Wear Face Coverings:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecoverfaq.html>

### **Stay Safe Minnesota – Industry Guidance:**

- All Stay Safe Industry Guidance:  
<https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/index.jsp>
- Specific Guidance:
  - Restaurants and Bars:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safedining.pdf>
  - Retail Business:  
[https://mn.gov/deed/assets/reopening-minnesotas-consumer-facing-businesses\\_tcm1045-431883.pdf](https://mn.gov/deed/assets/reopening-minnesotas-consumer-facing-businesses_tcm1045-431883.pdf)
  - Gyms, studios and Fitness Centers:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safegym.pdf>
  - Sports Guidance – Youth and Adults:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sportsguide.pdf>
  - Sports Guidance – Swimming Pools:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/poolreopen.pdf>
  - Youth, Student, and Child Care Program:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf>