



Stay Safe Against the Coronavirus



MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCE

Even if you feel well, stay at home as much as possible. In public, keep at least 6-feet distance from others. Avoid unnecessary appointments.



PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

Wear a face mask or covering in public. Cover your cough and sneezes. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



PROTECT LOUISIANANS AT RISK

Take special caution to avoid exposing the elderly and people with underlying health conditions. Stay home when sick.

– Statewide Face Covering Order –

START DATE: September 11, 2020, LAST REVISED: September 16, 2020

The Office of State Fire Marshal is providing you with this update in conjunction with the Office of the Governor and the Louisiana Department of Health to keep you up to date with additional information and/or changes as it becomes available during our battle with COVID-19. These notifications are issued automatically and immediately to those who sign up through “OpenSafely” (<https://opensafely.la.gov/>).

Preface:

This guidance shall serve as the superseding directive on face coverings in all currently active OpenSafely guidance documents until rescinded.

Guidance:

The statewide face covering order, as detailed in Proclamation Number 89 JBE 2020, **and updated in 117 JBE 2020**, applies in the following ways:

- All customers as well as business owners and employees, non-essential and essential, are to wear face coverings inside a commercial establishment or any other building or space open to the public, whether indoor or outdoor, as well as when utilizing public or commercial modes of transportation. This includes when individuals are engaged in exercise indoors or when a physical activity outdoors involves being within six feet of others.
 - Stay informed of the status of your local government in regard to the ability to opt-out of the statewide face covering order per Proclamation 89 JBE 2020.
- Face coverings must be worn over the nose and mouth.
- It is a business' responsibility to ensure all employees AND customers are wearing face coverings when on the premises.
 - Businesses are recommended to, first, ask any patron not wearing a face covering to put one on.
 - If a customer refuses a business' request to wear a face covering while on the premises, the business is recommended to request that the individual leave the building. If the individual refuses to leave, a trespass violation may be enforced.
 - Businesses that fail to remedy concerns raised over the wearing of face coverings per Proclamation 89 JBE 2020 are subject to citation and/or applicable licensure revocation.
- A business shall make exception for customers with regard to the wearing of face coverings if the following stipulations are applicable:
 - A child under the age of 8, though it is strongly recommended that children ages 2 and older wear face coverings.
 - An individual has a medical condition limited to severe breathing difficulties that prevents the wearing of a face covering.
 - An individual communicating with someone who is hearing impaired.
- Exceptions can also be made for:
 - Individuals who can remain six feet away from others who are not members of their household.
 - This applies to those engaging in an exercise activity outdoors.
 - In relation to mask-wearing during sporting activities outdoors where close interaction with others is sporadic, it is recommended that players, umpires and coaches keep face coverings on at all times. However, if the wearing of face coverings results in severe breathing difficulties, face coverings should be available to put on and remove as situations change relative to a player's proximity to another player (i.e. Basemen should have face coverings available for quick wearing in the event a runner gets to their base. Batters should always wear a face covering. Pitchers should have face coverings available for quick wearing in the event a coach or the catcher needs to approach the mound, etc.)
 - For those individuals who experience severe breathing difficulties when wearing face coverings, it is advised to stay at home as they are very high risk for poor outcomes from COVID.
 - Individuals who are eating and/or drinking.
 - Individuals giving a speech for broadcast or to an audience.
 - Individuals temporarily removing their face covering for identification purposes.
 - Any athlete participating in organized athletic activities

Further Face Covering Guidance:

Refer to Louisiana Department of Health guidance here:

<http://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Coronavirus/resources/CDC-DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>