

Dubuque County Mask Mandate Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions have been frequently asked by Dubuque County residents and business owners. If you have other questions or concerns that are not addressed here, please contact us at the Dubuque County Health Department.

1. What date will the mask mandate go into effect for all of Dubuque County?

The original Dubuque County mask mandate went into effect on November 18, 2020. The continuation of the mask mandate went into effect on March 3, 2021.

2. What date will the countywide mask mandate end?

The Dubuque County mask mandate resolution states that, “the provision of this proclamation shall continue until the Dubuque County Incident Management Team declares that Phase 1B is completed in Dubuque County, or by June 15, 2021, whichever occurs sooner.” The Dubuque County Board of Health will begin to discuss any revision to the current mask mandate resolution 8 weeks prior to June 15, 2021.

3. Who is required to wear a face covering?

Every person in Dubuque County 3 years of age or older is required to wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth when in a public place, unless they qualify for one of the exemptions.

4. Who is exempt from wearing a face covering?

Those who are exempt from wearing a face covering under the mandate include:

- Persons two years of age and younger.
- Anyone who has difficulty breathing or is on oxygen therapy or a ventilator.
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- Anyone who has been told by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional not to wear face coverings.
- Anyone actively engaged in a public safety role, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel, although a face covering should be worn if possible.
- A student participating in co-curricular activities when participating according to the Iowa High School Athletic Association rules for wearing face coverings.

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5. Where are face coverings required?

Face coverings are required outdoors whenever one cannot stay at least six feet away from others.

Face coverings are required inside any indoor public setting, for example, but not limited to:

- a. Grocery stores
- b. Pharmacies
- c. Hardware store
- d. Retail stores
- e. Any other indoor public setting when with persons who do not live in the person's household.

Face coverings are required when using public transportation or a private car service, including taxis, ride sharing, or carpooling.

6. Where are face coverings not required?

- Face coverings are not required while traveling in a personal vehicle alone or with household members.
- Face coverings are not required while a person is alone or in the presence of only household members.
- Face coverings are not required while outside, if keeping six feet away from others is possible.
- Face coverings are not required while exercising at moderate or high intensity, such as jogging, biking, or skating.
- Face coverings are not required while seated at a food establishment in the process of eating or drinking.
- Face coverings are not required while obtaining a service that would require temporary removal of the person's face covering.
- Face coverings are not required when federal or state law prohibits wearing a face covering or requires the removal of the face covering.

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7. If I live/work in the City of Dubuque, where there is already a mask mandate, what changes for me?

Nothing changes for those living/working in the City of Dubuque. The City of Dubuque mask mandate is still in effect and must be followed by all City residents, business owners, and employees.

8. Where can businesses get masks?

Business should contact their local City Clerk for masks. These masks should be used to provide to customers who do not have a mask when entering the building/space. Businesses may also contact the Dubuque County Health Department for assistance in obtaining masks.

9. Does the countywide mask mandate apply to private businesses or only those that are public?

The countywide mask mandates applies to all residents and public-serving businesses within Dubuque County. If customers, patients, clients, or other members of the public are allowed into the building either by appointment or during regular hours of operation then the business is considered open to the public and the face covering mandate is applicable.

10. Does the countywide mandate apply to private events held at locations open to the public?

Yes. Guests at private events held at indoor and outdoor locations open to the public such as weddings, funerals, graduation parties, conferences, and other business or social gatherings are required to wear a face covering. Face coverings may only be removed during the process of eating and drinking.

11. Does the countywide mask mandate apply to private events held at locations that are closed to the public?

No. The face covering mandate is only applicable in spaces open to the public. However, the City and public health officials strongly suggest guests attending private events or social gatherings at locations closed to the public (such as at someone's home or yard) wear face coverings whenever one cannot stay at least six feet away from others.

12. Does the mandate apply to daycares?

If a childcare center or in-home childcare provider does not allow parents, guardians, and other members of the public inside the building and pickup and drop off occurs outside at the door, then the facility is not open to the public and the face covering mandate is not applicable.

If parents, guardians, and other members of the public are allowed in the building, then the facility is considered open to the public and the face covering mandate is applicable.

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13. Does the mandate apply to gyms?

Gyms, like any other business, must require employees to wear masks at all times in the facility. Gym members must wear their mask when entering/exiting the facility, using the restroom/locker room, filling up water, etc. but do not need to wear a mask while exercising and using workout equipment. All equipment in the facility should be spaced at least 6 feet apart to allow social distancing.

14. Should people be wearing a mask while exercising?

The Center for Disease Control does not recommend wearing a mask while exercising. Doing so can actually make it harder to breathe. However, while exercising, be sure to maintain at least 6 feet of social distance from others and sanitize any shared equipment before and after use.

15. If a customer refuses to wear a mask in a Dubuque County business, is the customer or business owner at fault?

In this situation, the individual customer would be at fault for refusing to wear a mask.

16. If an employee is working in a business without a mask, is the employee or business owner at fault?

In this situation, the business owner would be at fault.

17. What is the charge for not wearing a mask?

If the individual or business is within the City of Dubuque, those who violate the ordinance and refuse to wear a face covering could receive an initial fine of \$10. If payment is not made within 30 calendar days, the fine will increase to \$15. Violators who choose to contest the fine in court will have to pay court costs.

There is no clause in the Dubuque County Mask Mandate Resolution that states there will be a charge for noncompliance.

If you have questions or concerns about the Dubuque County Mask Mandate Resolution, please contact the Dubuque County Health Department at (563) 557-7396.