



Frequently asked questions for mask use

Q: Why are masks now mandatory in public indoor spaces in Yukon?

- o Masks are an additional tool to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- o When used with other measures, such as the Safe 6, we are even better protected from being exposed to COVID-19 and to exposing others.

Q: Why does the mask order not apply to K-12 schools?

- o Masks are enforced under the Education Act in communal spaces in schools for those who are 10 years and older. Including staff, and visitors.

Q: What are my options if I have difficulty or feel that I am unable to wear a mask?

- o If a person has challenges wearing a mask, it is recommended that they try different styles and materials until they find the one most comfortable for them. Masks can loop behind the ears or tie behind the head and are available in various shapes.

Q: Are there any tips for people who have to wear a mask with glasses?

- o Wearing a mask that fits closely over your nose or one that has a nose wire, can help limit the amount of fogging to your glasses.

Q: What is the proper way to wear a mask?

- o Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before putting on your mask.
- o Make sure your mask is clean and dry.
- o Hold it by the ties or loops.
- o Cover the bridge of your nose to your chin.
- o Make sure it fits snugly against the sides of your face and under your chin.
- o Avoid touching the mask or your face under the mask.
- o Change your mask if it is wet or dirty.
- o Remove your mask by using the straps behind your ears or head.
- o Do not touch the front of your mask.
- o When disposing of a disposable mask, place it into a lined wastebasket.
- o If using a reusable mask, place it into a paper bag.
- o Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer again.

Q: Can I wear a medical mask? Does it offer more protection?

- o Wearing a medical mask, such as an N95, is not recommended and should be reserved for health care workers only. Wearing a non-medical mask made of 2 or 3 layers of cotton or linen is sufficient.
- o The tighter the weave of the fabric used, the more effective it will be.

Q: Can I wear a mask that has a vent or valves?

- o No. Vents or valves in masks allow virus particles to escape and are not recommended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q: Why are neck warmers and bandanas not considered a non-medical mask?

- o These face coverings are not substitutes for non-medical masks.
- o They do not fit as securely, without gaps, as masks do.
- o They are more likely to slip off your face.
- o They are difficult to remove without contaminating your hands, forehead and hair.

Q: Can I wear a face shield instead of a mask?

- o Face shields do not replace non-medical masks. A face shield is used to protect the eyes of the person wearing it and does not:
 - o protect them from possibly inhaling infectious droplets from others; and
 - o stop their infectious droplets, that can travel around the face shield.
- o If you are going to wear a face shield, choose one that extends around the sides of the face and below the chin and make sure there is no gap between the headpiece and your forehead. The face shield should be cleaned and disinfected after every use.
- o While wearing the face shield, you'll still need to:
 - o maintain physical distancing of 2 metres or 6 feet; and
 - o practise good hand hygiene, especially if you touch the face shield.

Q: For those members of the public or employees who have a medical exemption from wearing a mask – what are the reasonable measures that can be taken to allow them to remain at work or receive services?

- o For individuals who are unable to wear a mask, making sure that they follow the Safe 6 will allow them to stay at work and continue to receive services. Maintaining physical distancing, staying home when sick and washing your hands frequently are essential to reduce your risk of exposure.

Q: Can people with respiratory conditions such as asthma wear a mask?

- o Yes. Individuals who have asthma or other respiratory conditions can wear a mask.
- o The Canadian Lung Association, the Canadian Thoracic Society, and Asthma Canada all recommend following public health measures including mask use to protect us all against COVID-19.

Q: If we are able to physically distance and maintain 2 metres in public places, do we still need to wear a mask?

- o Yes. Masks do not replace physical distancing, they are an additional protective measure against the spread of COVID-19 in indoor public spaces.

Q: If a plexiglass barrier is in place, are masks still required?

- o Yes. A Mask must still be worn, even in the presence of a physical barrier such as plexiglass. This is true for a customer and for the person behind the plexiglass serving clients.
- o A physical barrier such as plexiglass protects against direct spray of droplets, but small droplets and aerosols can still travel around the barrier, therefore masks are also necessary.

Q: Are masks required to be worn for sports and other physical activities?

- o Masks are not required to be worn when playing sports or participating in other physical activities such as dance or yoga. However, they must be worn at all other times including in between practices, in change rooms and before and after games or physical activity.

Q: Are masks required in churches/places of worship?

- o Yes, people who are attending churches/places of worship are required to wear a mask.
- o Churches and other places of worship are considered public places and require mask use.
- o An officiant at a faith-based service can officiate without wearing a mask, but must maintain appropriate physical distancing from the people attending, 4 meters is recommended (as in the singing and music guidelines, because they are speaking loudly and spreading more droplets than someone speaking normally).

Q: Is it necessary to wear a mask while performing, including singing or playing wind instruments in an indoor public space such as a restaurant or bar?

- o Performers do not need to wear a mask while singing or playing music if they are specifically engaged or hired to perform.
- o They would have a designated work or performance area, which the public cannot access; and
- o The singing and music guidelines are adhered to (i.e. 4 metre distance between performer and audience).

Q: Are masks required for audiences at gatherings such as meetings or concerts in indoor public places? Can people take off their mask once seated at a gathering?

- o Masks are required for gatherings in indoor public spaces. Attendees are required to wear masks throughout the activity, unless exempt, even if physical distancing can be maintained. Individuals can remove their mask during the consumption of food or drink.

Q: Can a business prevent me from entering if I don't wear a mask?

- o A business can refuse entry to any person who is not wearing a mask.
- o Owners and operators may have additional requirements with respect to mask use above what the government of Yukon is requiring to ensure the safety of their staff and customers.
- o Businesses are encouraged to remember that some people cannot wear masks and to provide alternative ways of providing service (like online shopping or contactless pickup).

Q: Are business owners and operators required to enforce mask wearing?

- o Owners and operators of a business or public space are encouraged to give any person who enters their premises and is not wearing a mask a reminder to do so.
- o The objective of the message is to educate and inform, and gain voluntary compliance.
- o We do not advise businesses to risk their staff's safety to enforce the mask mandate.
- o Some people are unable to wear a mask and the reason may not be visible.
- o Business owners, operators and staff are encouraged to be kind and show compassion and understanding.
- o Business owners and operators are encouraged to download this sign provided by Public Health and display it where patrons will see it upon entering.