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Contact: Martha Ann Kneiss, 772-214-2790

Martin County passes emergency ordinance for mandatory face coverings in public

On Thursday, July 7, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners passed an emergency ordinance requiring face coverings be worn in public to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. This order applies to all incorporated and unincorporated areas.

“We cannot ignore the increase in cases in our community, neighboring counties and across the state. And, today, based on medical and health professionals’ recommendations, the board passed an emergency ordinance requiring all residents and visitors wear face coverings when in public in Martin County,” said Board Chair Harold Jenkins.

Face coverings must be worn by all persons in:

Indoor Public Places, Businesses and Establishments. Face coverings must be worn by all persons while obtaining or providing any goods or services or otherwise visiting or working in any indoor public place, business or establishment.

Outdoor Public Places, Businesses and Establishments. Face coverings must be worn by all persons while obtaining or providing any goods or services or otherwise visiting or working in outdoor public places, businesses and establishments where social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines is not possible and/or not being practiced.

Restaurants and Food Service Establishments. Face coverings must be worn by all persons in restaurants and food service establishments whether indoors or outdoors except when actively consuming food or beverages.

County and Municipal Government Facilities. All persons accessing governmental buildings for the purposes of conducting public business, visitation, contracting and maintenance, delivery or any other activity requiring a presence in a governmental building shall wear face coverings at all times while in the building. For purposes of this Emergency Order, governmental buildings shall mean any Martin County or municipal-owned and operated buildings, including, but not limited to, office buildings, fire rescue stations, service centers, recreational facilities and libraries.

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Face coverings are not required for the following:

- Children under six (6) years of age and any child while under the custody of a licensed childcare facility, including schools, summer camps and daycare centers.
- Individuals prohibited from wearing face coverings by Federal or State safety or health regulations.
- Public safety, fire or other life safety personnel that have personal protective equipment requirements governed by their respective agencies.
- Persons actively engaged in exercise and who are social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- Persons receiving goods and services from a business or establishment for the shortest practical period of time during which the receipt of such goods or services necessarily precludes the wearing of a face covering such as, but not limited to, consuming food or beverage or receiving dental services, facial grooming or treatments.
- Persons who have a medical condition or disability that makes the wearing of face coverings unsafe.
- Face coverings may be removed temporarily while assisting persons who are hearing impaired or who rely on reading lips in order to communicate.
- Persons in private rooms of a lodging establishment, such as hotel, motel or vacation rental; however, face coverings must be worn in common areas as proscribed by this ordinance.
- Persons engaged in outdoor work or recreation with appropriate social distancing pursuant to CDC guidelines in place and being practiced.

To view this emergency ordinance in its entirety, a summary and FAQs, as well as all other COVID-19 information related to Martin County, visit www.martin.fl.us/Coronavirus. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for additional county information. For health questions related to COVID-19, residents can call the 24-hour Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Call Center at 866-779-6121 or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov. Information is also available on the FDOH [website](#).

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