



MASK UP! FAQ'S

Frequently Asked Questions About Wearing Face Coverings

The Hilton Head Island Town Council passed Ordinance 2020-14 on Monday, June 29, 2020, requiring individuals to wear face coverings in commercial business establishment. A copy of the ordinance is available on the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov.

Are masks required on Hilton Head Island? Yes. Our Town Council passed ordinance 2020-14 on Monday, June 29, 2020, requiring individuals to wear a face covering. Any person entering a commercial business establishment within the Town's municipal limits must wear a face covering.

A face covering means a cloth or other type of masking device that covers the wearer's nose and mouth, and which remains in place without the use of the wearer's hands. A commercial business establishment means any establishment located in a closed building or other indoor environment that primarily sells goods or services, or a combination of them, to the general public, including but not limited to grocery stores, restaurants, lobbies and public spaces in hotels, motels and timeshare complexes, pharmacies, bars, salons, retail stores, medical and dental offices.

When will the ordinance go into effect? The ordinance goes into effect at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2020.

How long is this ordinance in effect?

From June 30, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. until Aug. 27, 2020, unless terminated or extended by Town Council.

Does this ordinance only apply to people on Hilton Head Island? All individuals living on or visiting Hilton Head Island are required to wear a mask in commercial establishments, unless they meet exceptions for underlying conditions.

Why should I wear a face covering? The S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advise the use of face coverings to help slow the spread of the coronavirus. According to the CDC, cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected because he or she does not have [symptoms](#). Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or respirators. Cloth face coverings are not personal protective equipment.

What are rules regarding face coverings for children? Please follow CDC guidelines for children. According to the CDC, [cloth face coverings](#) should not be placed on children younger than 2 years old or anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.

What if I have an underlying condition? The ordinance allows the following exceptions for persons with underlying conditions: any person who is unable to safely wear a Face Covering due to age, an underlying health condition, or who is unable to don or remove the Face Covering without the assistance of others, any person eating or consuming food and beverages; and persons receiving medical care or treatment.

Do gyms have to require people to wear a mask while working out?

Yes. Individuals within a gym are within an indoor commercial establishment and are therefore subject to the Ordinance.

If I am patronizing a local restaurant with outdoor seating, do I need to abide by the ordinance? The Ordinance applies when inside a commercial business, therefore indoor restaurant patrons must wear masks. However, it is appropriate to wear a mask while waiting for food and drinks. It is appropriate to remove the mask while eating and replace it when finished.

Do I need to wear a mask on the beach or at a pool? No. While our ordinance does not address wearing facial coverings on the beach, the CDC encourages the use of cloth face coverings among beach and pool visitors. Face coverings should be worn when feasible and are **most** essential at times when social distancing is difficult. The CDC advises those wearing cloth face coverings to **not** wear them in the water, because they can be difficult to breathe through when they're wet. This means it is particularly important to maintain social distancing in the **water**.

Do I need to wear a mask on pathways or while participating in other outdoor activities? While our ordinance does not address wearing facial coverings on pathways or for other outdoor activities, we do encourage you to following precautions from our state health department and the CDC. Those include wearing

a face covering, staying six feet apart, washing your hands, covering your cough with a tissue and staying home if you are sick.

Do my employees need to wear a mask? Yes. All commercial business establishments in the municipal limits of the Town shall require all employees to wear a face covering at all times that the employees are in any area where the general public is allowed, or when the employees must be in close proximity to one another.

Does the ordinance apply to churches, and, if I am a minister, do I need to wear a mask while preaching? The ordinance applies to churches. Employees or staff at establishments are required to wear a face covering at all times that they are in any area where the general public is allowed, or when they must be in close proximity to one another. Speaking loudly or singing can also produce droplets for which a mask should be worn.

Do I need to have proof of my medical condition?

The Southeast ADA Center, a regional arm of the ADA National Network, has produced some helpful guidance on the subject of face mask regulations and individuals who may suffer from a disability that would make wearing the mask unsafe. A copy of that document can be found here: <https://www.adasoutheast.org/ada/publications/legal/ada-and-face-mask-policies.php>

While no proof is needed in order to not be subject to the requirements of the Town's mask ordinance, it does not mean that a person with a medical condition can just enter and stroll about through an indoor commercial establishment as he or she may please without a mask on. Rather, the business will be required to comply with the mask regulations and should provide a reasonable accommodation to the person to the extent that a reasonable accommodation is possible. Examples of this include allowing a person to wear a scarf, loose face covering, or full face shield instead of a face mask; allowing customers to order online with curbside pick-up or no contact delivery in a timely manner; allowing customers to order by phone with curb-side pick-up or no contact delivery in a timely manner; allowing a person to wait in a car for an appointment and enter the building when called or texted; or offering appointments by telephone or video calls.

Do I still have to maintain social distancing?

Social distancing of at least 6 feet must continue in addition to wearing a face covering and proper hand washing practices.

How will the ordinance be enforced? The Beaufort County Sheriff's Department, Town code enforcement officers and other persons with lawful authority will enforce the ordinance.

Will I be penalized for not wearing a mask? Not wearing a mask in compliance with the ordinance is a misdemeanor and may result in an arrest and fine. Businesses not in compliance may have their business license suspended or revoked.

What do I do if I see individuals not wearing masks or face coverings in at businesses? If you encounter someone not wearing a face covering, we recommend you distance yourself at least six feet. While the Town's ordinance has provisions for violators, our focus is on education in order to gain our community's compliance.

If I suspect that I have symptoms, can I still wear my masks and enter commercial business establishments? SCDHEC advises that you stay home if you are sick. If you need to be tested for the virus, the following local providers offer testing:

Main Street Medical, 93 N Main St., Hilton Head Island, SC
843-681-3777
<https://www.hiltonheadurgentcare.org/>

Hilton Head Hospital, 25 Hospital Center Blvd., Hilton Head Island, SC
843-681-6122
<https://www.hiltonheadregional.com/our-response-to-covid-19>

Sea Pines Circle Immediate Care
2 Greenwood Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
843-341-2700
<http://www.seapinescircleimmediatecare.com/covid-19/>

You may also visit the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's website for information of COVID-19 screening and testing sites.
<https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-screening-testing-sites>

Where can I buy face coverings locally?

Here is a list of businesses where you can buy face masks. This is not a comprehensive list as there may be other businesses we are unaware of that are selling face coverings.

- Burke's Pharmacy
- Stephen's Pharmacy
- Target (in Bluffton)
- Walgreens
- Staples
- ArtWare

How do I care for my cloth mask?

Cloth face coverings should be washed after each use. The CDC provides more guidance on washing cloth face coverings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Is there a proper way to put on and take off the mask?

Use the following steps when putting on your face covering:

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin

- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily

Use the following steps to remove your face covering:

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place covering in the washing machine (learn more about [how to wash cloth face coverings](#))
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing.