

Face Covering Bylaw

Edmonton

Updated July 31, 2020

KEY INFORMATION

As of **August 1 2020** a bylaw will be in place up to the end of 2020 that requires all individuals to wear a face covering over their mouth, nose and chin, subject to the exceptions below, in all indoor public places (publicly or privately owned) and public vehicles (includes bus, LRT and vehicles for hire). This includes the public areas of all City of Edmonton owned and operated indoor spaces located in facilities, amenities, attractions and services.

What is a face covering?

A face covering is a material or mask that covers a person's mouth, nose and chin to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets. Acceptable forms of face coverings are listed below and can be found in this [reference guide](#).

- A non-medical face mask
- Face shields that wrap around the face and chin, fully covering mouth, nose and chin
- Cloth face coverings
- A medical-grade face mask

What exceptions in the bylaw permit a person to not wear a face covering?

- Persons under the age of 2;
- Persons who are unable to place, use, or remove a face covering without assistance;
- Persons unable to wear a face covering due to a mental or physical concern or limitation, or protected ground under the *Alberta Human Rights Act*;
- Persons consuming food or drink in designated seating areas or as part of religious ceremony;
- Persons engaged in water activities or physical exercise;
- Persons providing care or assistance to a person with a disability where a face covering would hinder that caregiving or assistance; and
- Persons engaging in services that require the temporary removal of a face covering.

Will the other public health measures still need to be in place?

All other public health measures, as listed below and those in place for each work area, will still need to be in place regardless if wearing a face covering or not. Face coverings are an added layer of protection to help us re-commit to public health measures and protect the safety of others.

- Maintain 2 metre physical distance
- Stay home if feeling sick
- Sanitize high-touch areas frequently
- Wash and sanitize hands

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why am I required to cover my face?

By covering your nose and mouth with a mask or face covering, it helps reduce the spread of respiratory droplets and in turn, help us reduce exposure to COVID-19. We want to stop the spread so we can continue to provide our services and give greater confidence in the safety of our services.

Do I have to wear it while swimming, working out or participating in activities on the ice?

No, this bylaw does not apply when engaging in water activities or physical exercise, just when you are using the change rooms and accessing the public areas, such as the lobby.

I don't have a face covering, do you have something that I can use?

Facilities may have some masks available for the first week of the bylaw being implemented (while they last), but we ask that you provide your own mask.

I prefer not to wear a face covering.

Although people may have preferences and choose to not wear a face covering in public, in order to enter City spaces (or any publicly-accessible indoor space in Edmonton) face coverings are required as of August 1, unless they meet the exceptions listed.

Does the mandatory use of face coverings reduce physical distancing requirements and provide opportunities for higher capacities?

No, as face coverings do not offer 100% protection to the people near the wearer, the other public health measures will still need to be in place, including capacity limits and physical distancing. Face coverings are an added measure to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Do members of the public have to wear a face covering if they are just going from one amenity to another?

Yes, when walking through mandatory face covering zones, members of the public will have to don a face covering, even if it is a short walk. As some areas and walkways do not allow for physical distancing and face coverings are an added layer of protection, we want to ensure we have all measures in place where possible so as to ensure safety.

For more information visit edmonton.ca/Masks

Where & When to Wear Face Coverings

Indoor Area	Face Covering Required for Public	Face Covering Not Recommended / Required
Lobby / Foyer	✓	
Elevators	✓	
Common Change Areas	✓	
Locker Areas	✓	
Participating in activities in the pool, on the ice or in the gymnasium		✓
Fitness Centres (Public Engaging in Physical Activity)		✓
Fitness Centres (Public Not Engaging in Physical Activity)	✓	
Indoor Exhibits	✓	
Consuming Food or Drink in Restaurants / Designated Eating Areas		✓
Sitting in Restaurants / Designated Eating Areas (Not Eating)	✓	
Club Houses / Pro Shops Public Spaces	✓	
Public Washrooms	✓	
Rental Spaces (Exclusive use by public - rental host present)	✓	
Indoor Fitness Classes		✓
Spectator Areas	✓	