



# MASK REQUIRED BEFORE ENTRY

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### A CITY OF BIRMINGHAM ORDINANCE

EFFECTIVE THROUGH MAY 24, 2021

#### **1. When do I have to wear a mask in Birmingham?**

You have to wear a mask when you are in public places and in close contact with other people. Specifically, you should wear a mask when you are within six feet of a person from another household. People in separate offices or non-public workspaces where there is adequate space to social distance do not have to wear a covering or mask at all times.

#### **2. Do young children have to wear a mask in Birmingham? What about people who are exercising? In other words, are there any exceptions to the mask-wearing requirement?**

There are several categories of exceptions. Children under 6 are not required to wear a mask. Face coverings or masks are not required during individual outdoor exercise, for people with certain medical conditions or disabilities, eating and drinking, medical and dental procedures, and so on. There are also categories of exceptions for communicating with an audience, and for certain essential job functions. An additional category addresses exceptions for protected activities like voting and religious worship— but even then, wearing a mask is strongly encouraged.

#### **3. What kind of face mask is required in Birmingham?**

The requirement allows all kinds of masks to be used—whether store-bought, homemade, or improvised from household items like scarves, bandanas, or T-shirts. The key is for the mask to cover a person's nostrils and mouth. For instructions on how to make a mask, see the CDC's "How to Make Cloth Face Coverings," available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>.

#### **4. I live in a city or county that does not have a local mask order. What does this mean for me when I visit Birmingham?**

This ordinance applies only to the city limits of Birmingham. Those within the Birmingham city limits will be required to wear a mask to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

#### **5. I am a business owner in Birmingham. What does this order mean for my business?**

The order requires businesses to take reasonable steps to encourage mask use by employees and customers. One example of a reasonable step might be to post signs encouraging customers and patrons to wear a mask. Although a business is not required to deny entry to people who are mask-less, they always retain the right to do so—and doing so would certainly be a reasonable step to encourage mask use. The ordinance does not require businesses to provide face coverings or masks.

#### **6. How long will the new mask requirement be in effect?**

The City of Birmingham mask requirement is currently set to expire at 11:59 p.m. on May 24, 2021.