



LACCD EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

SAFETY ADVISORY

USE OF FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC TO REDUCE COVID-19 EXPOSURE

Revised March 18, 2021 (Originally Issued April 9, 2020)

INTRODUCTION

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the use of facial coverings in public settings has been a core component of the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) required under health orders and guidance from federal, [state](#), [county](#) and local officials. Studies have shown that in communities where people wear masks there is less transmission of COVID-19. See [CDC Scientific Brief: Community Use of Cloth Masks to control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2](#) for more information as well as from the [State of California Department of Public Health website](#) and the [State of California's COVID-19 website](#).

LACCD REQUIREMENTS

In response to these orders and guidance, all LACCD employees are required to use the mandated face coverings when in public areas as well as in the workplace. When on District property, **all employees must wear cloth face coverings** for employee protection against COVID-19 in "low exposure risk" areas (e.g., outdoors and inside of clean buildings). Vendors are also advised that face coverings are required on campus. **This safety advisory became effective April 10, 2020 and is subject to revision until further notice.**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) provides extensive information on the type of and the use of [masks and facial coverings on its website](#), including:

You DO need to wear a mask

- Even if you are healthy and vaccinated
- When you are in a public or private space with people that don't live with you, whether inside or outside. This means whenever you leave your home and may walk near or past others
- When you use any form of public transportation or ride sharing. This includes when traveling into, within, or outside of the United States and in transportation hubs such as airports and bus stations
- If you have COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19 or if you are in quarantine and you must be around others in your own home
- If you are caring for someone who has COVID-19
- If someone in your household has COVID-19
- In specific places and situations described in various guidance documents on the LACDPH [webpage](#) and in the [Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community](#) Health Officer Order.

You DO NOT need to wear a mask

- When you are driving alone or only with members of your household
- When you are working alone in a private office with doors closed (note: persons working in cubicles, even with full partitions, must wear a mask)
- When you are actively eating or drinking (as long as you are at least 6 feet away from people who don't live with you)
- When you are doing activities that may get your mask wet, such as swimming. Wet masks can make it hard to breathe and do not work as well
- When you are exercising outside and at a distance from others (eight feet or greater), but make sure to have a mask with you, in case you cannot keep a safe distance from others
- When you are wearing an alternate form of required respiratory protection for work



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What kind of mask to wear?

There are many types of masks you can use to protect against getting and spreading COVID-19. The [LACDPH website](#) offers a lot of information and recommendations in multiple languages regarding what to wear and how to correctly wear masks and facial coverings.

In general, choose a mask that provides the correct level of protection for your specific situation:

- Your mask should be made with two or more layers of tightly woven, breathable material
- Your mask completely covers your nose and mouth and fits snugly against the sides of your face and around your nose.
- **Do not use masks that are made of loosely woven fabrics or constrict breathing through vinyl, leather, or plastic or that have valves, vents, or holes.**

You also do not need to wear NIOSH-approved N95 respirators unless you are in a setting that requires these. NIOSH-approved N95 respirators are critical supplies meant for healthcare workers and first responders.

DOUBLE MASKING

Double masking is not mandatory but may be beneficial in certain circumstances and for additional protection against variants of the COVID-19 coronavirus. [Double masking is also an effective way to improve fit and filtration](#). A close-fitting cloth mask can be worn on top of a surgical/disposable mask to improve the seal of the mask to the face.

Layering more than two masks is not recommended as this could be difficult to breathe through. It is also not recommended to wear two medical masks, or to wear a medical mask on top of a KN95 or an N95.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS

The [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) also provides extensive information on its [website regarding the types of masks and how to wear them](#).

Effective February 2, 2021, the federal government now requires that [masks be worn](#) on all forms of Public Transportation, including, but not limited to, planes, buses and trains traveling into, within, or outside of, the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and other multimodal stations.

REGARDING N-95 MASKS

Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators (i.e. medical-grade respirators), which are generally reserved for healthcare workers and emergency first responders. The District may also require and will provide as needed such masks for occupational access to certain buildings that are suspect of recent airborne pathogens exposure (within three days) and/or recent environmental pathogens exposure (within eight days). This guidance is based on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) safe work practices and may be found in the District's protocol on Cleaning College Facilities for COVID-19 Exposures. In any case, the District remains committed to supporting workplaces that are "safe and healthful" for all employees [Labor Code Section 6403]. <https://law.onecle.com/california/labor/6403.html>