



MEDIA ALERT

The Town of Carbondale Passes an Emergency Ordinance Requiring the Wearing of Masks in Public

CARBONDALE, Colo. (May 20, 2020) – The Town of Carbondale Board of Trustees passed an emergency ordinance at its meeting, May 19, 2020, requiring the public to wear face coverings or masks where public interaction is likely. The ordinance is effective immediately.

This change means it is now required by law for the public to wear a cloth face covering or non-medical mask when entering and while inside places of business at locations where public contact is likely, including but not limited to within all common areas and lobbies at front desks, within public seating or waiting areas, and within all portions or retail grocery, and restaurant businesses that are accessible by customers.

The exceptions to this include children under the age of two, persons for whom a face covering would cause breathing impairment from an existing health condition; persons working in an office who do not have face-to-face interactions with the public; persons within bank lobbies if the bank posts signage on its public entrances that requires the removal of face masks for security reasons; owners or employees of professional office spaces that are not open to the public; persons who need to remove face covering when required to perform a reasonably necessary activity in public (e.g. removing a mask to eat or drink in restaurants or other places of public accommodation, to receive dental services), to the extent such activity is allowed by applicable Garfield County or State of Colorado public health orders.

The ordinance outlines that violations of the ordinance will be subject to a penalty of \$50 for a first offense, \$100 for a second offense and a summons to municipal court for any subsequent offenses.

“The only way we can return to normalcy is to contain the spread of the virus and the best way to do that is to double-down on precautions—including the wearing of a mask—as businesses start to open up again,” said Marty Silverstein, Town of Carbondale Trustee. “Science is telling us the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example via speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. The CDC is recommending the wearing of a cloth face covering or non-medical mask, and our goal as a

community is to ensure we are all playing our part in this. By wearing a mask, you are protecting a friend, a parent, an aunt, an uncle.”

The Carbondale Emergency Task Force updated its *Mask On, Carbondale* awareness poster by artist and illustrator, Brian Colley, to reflect the status change in mask-wearing requirements for the community and will distribute these posters to businesses and organizations over the next few days.

The Task Force also reminds the community it should continue to social distance, keeping 6 feet of physical distance between all people at all times, and wash your hands as often as you can. Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

The Town of Carbondale emergency ordinance can be viewed [here](#).

FAQ’s on masks and face coverings are below.

For more information on Colorado’s **Safer at Home** order which expires May 26, 2020, visit: www.covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home-faq

Do I need to wear a face mask or gloves in the community to prevent COVID-19?

- Colorado is asking everyone to wear a non-medical cloth face covering while out in public. You can make or buy a covering that will cover your mouth and nose and use it whenever you are outside your house and yard.
- [Executive Order D 2020 039](#) orders workers at critical businesses to wear non-medical face coverings while at work and wear gloves (if gloves are provided by an employer).

When do I need to wear a mask or gloves?

- Wear your non-medical, cloth face covering whenever you go out in public to get groceries or medications or to do other essential activities. Use it when going for a walk or out to exercise, if you are away from your own yard.
- If you work at a critical business, you need to wear a medical or non-medical cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth while working, except where doing so would inhibit your health. To the extent possible, wear gloves when in contact with customers or goods if gloves are provided to workers by their employer.

Why are we being asked to wear masks?

- The main reason to wear a non-medical mask is to protect others. Science is telling us that some people may spread COVID-19 when they do not have symptoms. People may spread the disease when speaking, coughing or sneezing -- especially in situations where a physical distance of 6 feet cannot be maintained.

Shouldn't we be wearing disposable or surgical masks?

- No. We must keep medical masks for health care providers and first responders who are exposed to heavy amounts of the virus when caring for sick people. Cloth face coverings can help the rest of us help them by potentially limiting the spread of the virus.

Where do I get a mask?

- You can make or buy your own. You can use a bandana or scarf. ColoradoMaskProject.com has resources. The CDC has a [video on making your own mask](#), or Google CDC cloth masks.

How should a mask fit?

- Cloth face coverings should—
 - fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
 - be secured with ties or ear loops
 - include multiple layers of fabric
 - allow for breathing without restriction
 - be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

How do I clean and sterilize my mask?

- Wash your mask regularly with your regular laundry.

How do take off the mask?

- Be careful to not touch your eyes, nose or mouth when removing your face covering, and wash your hands right after you remove it.

Where can I find out more?

- [CDC's web page](#) is an excellent resource.

(ENDS)

About the Carbondale Emergency Task Force

*The Town of Carbondale established the **Carbondale Emergency Task Force (CETF)**, a collective group of volunteer and organizational expertise from across the community to provide support and guidance to the town in key areas of the potential impact from the COVID-19 global pandemic public health crisis. The community is encouraged to visit the CETF webpage and the English and Spanish language CEFT Facebook pages for all public announcements and updates from the Task Force:*

<https://www.carbondalegov.org/government/emergency/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CarbondaleETF>

<https://www.facebook.com/Grupo-de-Trabajo-de-Emergencia-de-Carbondale>

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