

# CITY OF ROCHESTER MASK REQUIREMENT: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated January 18, 2022



## WHY SHOULD I WEAR A FACE MASK?

Wearing masks helps you protect others by preventing your germs from infecting them, especially in situations where you may spread the virus without symptoms. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing face masks that have two or more layers in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and pharmacies.

## WHERE ARE FACE MASKS REQUIRED IN THE CITY OF ROCHESTER?

Face masks are required in all indoor places that the public can access beginning at 6:00 am on January 16, 2022.

## HOW LONG DOES THE EMERGENCY MASK ORDER LAST?

The mask requirement is set to expire at 11:59 pm on February 7, 2022. The Rochester City Council has the ability to either rescind or extend the requirement based on the local situation. Note individual businesses/organizations reserve the right to require patrons wear masks after this emergency order expires.

## DO I STILL NEED TO WEAR A MASK IF I AM VACCINATED?

Yes, all individuals aged two years and older are required to wear a mask in indoor public spaces in the City of Rochester.

## WHAT ARE THE EXCEPTIONS?

This order does not apply to:

- Children two years of age or younger.
- Individuals actively eating or drinking.
- Individuals unable to wear a face covering due to medical, disability, or developmental reasons.
- Individuals speaking to an audience, whether in person or through broadcast, as long as the speaker remains six feet or more away from other individuals.
- Individuals speaking to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing and requires the mouth to be visible to communicate.
- Participants in youth sports.
- Athletes, performers, and supporting staff competing or performing at indoor spaces.

## HOW DOES THIS REQUIREMENT APPLY TO RESTAURANTS?

Individuals must wear a face mask unless seated at a table.

## DO I NEED TO WEAR MY MASK ON ROCHESTER PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (RPT)?

Masks are required on RPT buses by order of the Transportation Security Administration.

## ARE MASKS REQUIRED AT GYMS, FITNESS CENTERS & SPORTS FACILITIES?

Participants, staff and spectators inside these types of venues are required to wear a face covering at all times when they are within six feet of another person. These venues include, but are not limited to: pools, trampoline parks, gymnastics facilities, hockey/skating arenas and climbing walls.

## HOW IS THE MASK REQUIREMENT BEING ENFORCED?

Violation of the city-wide mask requirement is not a criminal offense. However, any individual that fails to comply may be asked to leave by the business/organization. If an individual refuses to leave, law enforcement may be called to enforce trespassing laws.

Any business found in violation of the mask requirement may be subject to administrative action for any licenses they possess with the City.

[www.rochestermn.gov/covid19](http://www.rochestermn.gov/covid19)

## WHEN DOES THE REQUIREMENT GO INTO EFFECT?

6:00 am on  
January 16, 2022

## WHEN DOES IT EXPIRE?

11:59 pm on  
February 7, 2022

## TYPES OF MASKS:

### Which type of face mask should I wear?

The CDC recommends that you wear the most protective mask you can that fits well (no gaps!) and that you will wear consistently.

- N95 and KN95 masks  
Medical-grade masks (N95, KN95, surgical) are the most effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- Cloth masks that have multiple layers of fabric still help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses.

### What about bandanas and neck gaiters?

These face coverings do not provide the necessary protection from COVID-19 particles and should be avoided.

### Where can I learn more about choosing a mask?

Visit: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)