

City of Lawton

Face Coverings/Masks

Recommendation Guidelines

April 10th, 2020

The wearing of face coverings/masks in public settings has been shown to be effective in reducing community spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to study the spread and effects of the novel coronavirus across the United States but an abundance of research implies that the virus primarily spreads between people interacting in close proximity — for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing — even if interacting individuals are not exhibiting symptoms. Up to a quarter of individuals infected by COVID-19 may not show any symptoms, according to the CDC.

In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., **grocery stores and pharmacies**) and especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

While we understand this is an inconvenience for many citizens, it is an important strategy to protect our community. It is further hoped that the use of masks by our community members might ultimately also shorten the time frame that many businesses must remain closed. We support all measures that can be taken to help prevent the spread.

Remember, the primary protection provided by each individual wearing a mask is protection of others.

Following are the guidelines associated with the wearing of masks for the Lawton community.

Effective immediately, all persons are strongly encouraged to wear masks or other face covering to cover, at a minimum, the nose and mouth areas of the face anytime an individual is outside of their property of residence or around others with whom they do not share a residence. It is not recommended for small children, two years of age and under, to wear masks. However, for individuals 3 years and older, mask wearing is recommended when leaving a place of residence and encouraged to be worn when:

- In an outdoor public space and within 10 feet of another person(s) with whom a residence is not shared.
- In a business/store/office or any other indoor space open to the public.
- In any room or area of any other building, except your residence, when any other persons who do not reside with them are within the same room or space.
- At work, unless the workspace is not accessible to the public and you are the only worker within the given space.
- In a vehicle with other passengers who do not reside with you

No portion of these recommendations allows for reducing the minimum 6 feet social distancing requirements of previous orders.

Recommendation Exceptions:

- When the wearing of the mask poses a risk to a person while performing a job duty.
- When you are in your home or place of residence and/or in outdoor areas of your property.
- When you are the only person in an office or workspace while you are at your place of employment and it is not open to the public.
- When driving in a vehicle with no other passengers.
- When you are in a vehicle only with individuals with whom you reside.
- While biking, running, or other strenuous exercise while outdoors alone or anytime you are outdoors and within 10 feet of another person.
- When certain medical or developmental conditions and/or disability/infirmity make the wearing of a mask dangerous, impractical or impossible.
- During emergency medical situations such as when a person is having difficulty breathing or is unconscious
- Children under 3 years of age

NOTE: It can be dangerous to place face coverings/masks on children under 3 years of age. Placing face coverings/masks on children under 3 years of age is NOT recommended.

A face covering or face mask, as strongly recommended herein, may be made of cloth or other fabric material and should

- Completely cover the nose and mouth area, but allow for breathing without restriction
- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with elastic, ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric/material
- Unless intended for one-time use/disposable, be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

(Learn more about DIY mask wearing and making here: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html))

CITIZENS ARE NOT ADVISED TO BUY OR OBTAIN MEDICAL MASKS. Medical masks are needed for those on the front line of this pandemic – healthcare officials and first responders.

To help citizens meet the recommendations of this section, the following is in effect:

- Businesses and individuals that sew, may be open for the limited purpose of providing masks or face coverings.
- For the limited purpose of providing face mask materials, fabric stores may be open by appointment only and/or may provide curbside pickup of orders placed online or by phone.

- Other general merchandise stores not deemed essential business may also be open for the limited purpose of providing materials for masks or face coverings but shall have the same restrictions limiting their business to appointments and/or curbside service.
- All businesses and individuals now allowed to operate by this order, that do so by appointment, should serve one customer per available associate; such businesses should also sanitize all customer areas between and before each transaction.



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