

From the
Office of the City Manager
CITY OF LAWTON

20 July 2020

An ordinance requiring the use of face masks or coverings was approved by Lawton City Council on July 17, 2020. It went into effect immediately. Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions received since its passing. **Please note there are multiple exceptions to wearing masks/coverings, as outlined in the ordinance (page 3, Section A); citizens are encouraged to review the entire ordinance or obtain needed signage through this link: lawtonok.gov/news/face-maskscoverings-required-indoor-spaces.**

Q: May I wear a face shield in lieu of a face covering and still be in compliance with the ordinance?

A: Yes.

Q: Do masks need to be worn at fitness centers/gyms?

A: Yes, to help limit the spread and keep these businesses open, masks must be worn at indoor fitness centers/gyms.

Q: What about playing sports?

A: If sports are being played in an indoor facility in City limits, masks must be worn.

Q: Can businesses require me to show documentation or proof of a medical condition that prevents me from wearing a mask?

A: No, however they can require you to show a note from a qualified physician that says face masks and/or shields are adverse to your health and should not be worn by you. The medical condition itself does not have to be made known.

Q: What signage should be placed at businesses?

A uniform sign from the City of Lawton can be found, downloaded and printed for posting here: lawtonok.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/COL%20Mask%20Face%20Covering%20Flyer%20%282%29.pdf

Q: What about masks and signage at bars/restaurants?

A: Bars/restaurants are required to post signage as all businesses are. Masks should be worn in these facilities if customers are in waiting areas, general public spaces like bathrooms, or engaged in an activity in which they are not eating or drinking (darts, pool, etc.).

Q: What about violations?

A: The City of Lawton hopes to gain compliance through education, outreach and open lines of communication with the business community. Violations may be reported to non-emergency dispatch at 580.581.3272 in the case that violators become unruly or threatening. Businesses may refuse service to individuals who are not in compliance with the ordinance.

Q: Are religious institutions/services exempt?

A: No, but the ordinance notes there is an exemption for "any person while giving a speech or independent performance, whether for an audience or a broadcast" and that "performing groups shall be required to adhere to all covering CDC guidelines" (so this would include pastors giving sermons).

Q: Where can I find additional CDC guidelines/information?

A: Through this link: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)

Q: Does this have any effect on open or concealed carry?

A: No, citizens may still lawfully open or conceal carry while this mandate is in place.