



General Face Mask FAQs (Updated 7/15/20)

On Monday, July 6, 2020, the Salina City Commission voted to enact a face mask ordinance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the health and safety of all residents. Please read the frequently asked questions below to learn more about the ordinance and how it may pertain to you.

The City of Salina and Saline County will add to these FAQs as new information becomes available.

You can also email questions and concerns to facemasks@salina.org.

You should wear a wear a mask when:

- You're in either indoor or outdoor public spaces, including offices, shops, churches, health clubs, stores, where 6 feet of safe social distance cannot be maintained;
- You're in a healthcare setting such as hospitals, pharmacies, physician or dental offices, veterinary clinics;
- You're using public transportation including ride shares, buses, other shared transportation;
- You're an employee working in food service, retail sales, health care, cosmetology or massage therapy.

There are exceptions for wearing a mask:

- Persons age five years or under; children age two years and under in particular should not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation;
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering—this includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines;
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;
- Persons who are seated at a restaurant or other establishment that offers food or beverage service, while they are eating or drinking, provided they maintain a 6-foot distance between individuals (not including individuals who reside together or are seated together) with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity;
- Athletes who are engaged in an organized sports activity that allows athletes to maintain a 6-foot distance from others with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity;
- Persons who are engaged in an activity that a professional or recreational association, regulatory entity, medical association, or other public-health-oriented entity has determined cannot be safely conducted

while wearing a mask or other face covering;

- Persons engaged in a court-related proceeding held or managed by the Kansas Judiciary;
- Persons engaged in any lawful activity during which wearing a mask or other face covering is prohibited by law.

Where can I read the City's mask ordinance?

You can read the approved mask ordinance here:

City of Salina <http://www.salina-ks.gov/news/?FeedID=5800>

Saline County www.saline.org/coronavirus

When did the mask ordinance go into effect? When does it expire?

The mask ordinance went into effect on Thursday, July 9 and will remain in effect until the City Commission repeals the ordinance. You can check upcoming City Commission agenda items at:

<http://weblink.salina.org/WebLink/Browse.aspx?startid=177362&&dbid=0&cr=1>.

What is the definition of a public space?

“Public space” means any indoor or outdoor space or area that is open to the public; this does not include private residential property or private offices or workspaces that are not open to the public.

What are the fines associated with violating the City of Salina Mask Ordinance or Saline County Resolution?

The goal of the ordinance is to educate and encourage as many residents to wear facemasks in public – not to hand out tickets. However, a person, firm, or corporation unable to demonstrate that they have and use a facemask can be in violation of the mask ordinance and face a fine of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) for the first violation, fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the second violation, and one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for a third or subsequent violation.

What's the proper way to wear a mask?

If you have questions about the proper way to wear a mask, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>

What are best practices for masks? How often should I wash or replace?

If you have questions about the proper way to maintain a washable mask, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wash-cloth-face-coverings.html>

How can I report a business or a person who is not complying with the mask mandate?

The goal of the ordinance is to encourage residents and businesses to use masks in public spaces – not to issue tickets. The Salina Police Department will focus on education and encourage residents and businesses to use masks in public spaces.

We strongly discourage residents from getting into arguments with individuals or businesses that do not comply with the ordinance. Instead, model best behavior of helping to protect your health and fellow residents' health by wearing a mask appropriately.

Do not call 911 to report a violation of the ordinance. If you have a public concern, send an email to facemasks@salina.org.

Do those who meet the exempt requirements need to have proof of exemption?

No, the ordinance does not require residents to provide proof of the exemption. Simply explain that you have a health or other condition that prevents you from wearing a mask.

Can a business deny entry if I am not wearing a mask and I claim an exemption?

A private business should not use our ordinance as a basis for refusing service if a customer claims an exemption. A private business, however, can refuse service to for a myriad of different reasons. We have found that some businesses have corporate mask policies that are more stringent than our ordinance.

Do I have to wear a mask at church?

Yes, if you are unable to maintain six feet of social distancing, masks should be worn. Masks can be removed if social distancing is possible. In this setting, masks could be removed once attendees are in their seats as long as they can maintain 6 feet of distance from anyone who does not reside with them. If attendees leave their seats it is advisable to put the mask back on because it becomes more likely that they will not be able to maintain 6 feet of social distance as they are moving around.

Do I have to wear a mask at my individual workstation?

Employees whose workspaces are in the open (as opposed to a dedicated office space) that can be visited or passed by the public or co-workers must wear masks whenever someone else is present. As long as there is nobody within 6 feet of the workspace a mask is not required.

Do I have to wear a mask at my office?

Employees with dedicated office space must wear masks when others are present in their work space.

Do businesses need to enforce the new mask ordinance for their customers and clients who come to their locations?

Yes, businesses are expected to require patrons to wear masks if their place of business meets the requirements of the mask ordinance. Printable signage can be found at the following link:

<http://salina.ks.us/filestorage/18160/38608/Face-Masks-Required-Signage.pdf>

I own a business or store and have customers who don't want to wear a mask in my store.

Do I have the right to deny a customer service if they don't wear a mask? What if they refuse to put a mask on?

Yes, the ordinance directs businesses and individuals to use a face mask in public. You have the right to deny service at your place of business to anyone who will not wear a mask in your business. We recommend avoiding verbal conflict with those who refuse to wear a mask in your store. Send an email to facemasks@salina.org if you have specific questions regarding non-compliance issues at your business.

It's a good idea to put a "Face Masks Required" sign on your business door so that customers are clearly aware of the City ordinance that requires all residents to wear a mask in public spaces.

My business has plastic/plexiglass barriers installed for customer interactions, do employees still have to wear masks?

Yes, employees must wear masks when they are working in any space visited by customers or members of the public if they are unable to maintain a 6 foot social distance.

Are children and staff at childcare facilities required to wear masks?

No. KDHE has provided guidelines that recommend that children in childcare settings are not required to wear masks. The following guidelines can be found on KHDE’s website:

“KDHE is not requiring the use of masks/cloth face coverings in child care facilities for adult staff or children in care. However, local health officials and employers/child care programs can require the use of masks in child care settings. If staff are wearing masks, care should be taken to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing face coverings and to wash hands immediately after removing. Masks should be washed frequently. Staff wearing masks may also need to consider the speech and language skills of young children as visual access to caregivers’ mouths is critical to infant/toddler speech development. Additionally, young children may try to touch or remove the mask from their caregiver which could result in contamination. If feasible and necessary, children in care over the age of 2 years may safely wear masks, in consultation with parents, once they are able to put one on and remove it without assistance and are able to avoid touching or sucking on it. Masks should not be placed on anyone—adult or child—who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove their mask without assistance.”

For full details on the KDHE guidance on Childcare facilities can be found at the following link:

<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/227/Childcare-Foster-care>

Do audience members at cultural or performing arts events have to wear masks?

Yes. Masks are required in any public space where safe social distancing isn’t possible. Mask can be removed if social distancing is possible. Masks could be removed once audience members are in their seats as long as they can maintain 6 feet of distance from anyone who does not reside with them. If audience members leave their seats it is advisable to put the mask back on to make sure they can maintain 6 feet of social distance.

Is it necessary to wear a mask while walking my dog?

A mask is only required outdoors when you are unable to maintain a 6-foot distance between individuals who do not reside together.

How can I ask questions or share concerns about the mask ordinance?

Email facemasks@salina.org if you have a question or comment about the ordinance. Please do not call 911. The City of Salina is asking for voluntarily compliance for this new ordinance. Calls for service are prioritized, and it is likely there will be a delay in response as other higher priority calls will be handled first. 911 should be reserved for emergency calls only.