

Executive Order 20-81 on Masks

Today Governor Walz signed [Executive Order 20-81](#) which says all Minnesotans MUST wear a face covering in all public indoor spaces and indoor businesses (there are some exceptions). Workers also must wear a face covering outdoors when it is not possible to maintain social distancing. The order is effective Saturday, July 25, 2020.

According to doctors and researchers, wearing a mask or face covering is an effective step we can take to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Wearing a face covering can greatly reduce the risk of infection when combined with washing our hands and social distancing.

What does this mean for state agency employees?

Minnesota Management and Budget issued a new [face coverings policy for agency staff](#). The policy requires all agency employees, officers, contractors, vendors, volunteers, and interns to wear face coverings when in the workplace or public service environment.

Key points from the policy

- The policy does not apply to staff while working from home.
- You can bring your own face covering from home, to use in the workplace.
- Face coverings must be worn to cover the nose and mouth completely.
- You can temporarily remove face coverings in indoor spaces in certain situations, for example when presenting, eating, or communicating with an individual who is deaf or hearing impaired, or when you are alone in an office or a cubicle with walls above face level.
- There are exemptions from the policy, for example for staff who have medical conditions that make it unreasonable for them to wear a face covering, when wearing a face covering creates a job hazard, and in some outdoor situations.
- Employees who don't follow the policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, and may be sent home; employees who cannot telework may be placed in no-pay status.
- Employees should stay home if sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Please contact your supervisor or HR office with questions.

Mask up! Thank you for doing your part to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Stay healthy,

Paul Schnell
Commissioner