

# MANDATORY FACE COVERINGS: MUNICIPAL & PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS – FACT SHEET

(Information current as of November 25, 2020)

On July 29, 2020, Edmonton City Council passed [Bylaw 19408](#) - Temporary Mandatory Face Coverings. This municipal Bylaw makes the wearing of masks in indoor public spaces mandatory within the City of Edmonton.

On November 24, 2020, The Government of Alberta issued [Order 38-2020](#), which made the wearing of masks mandatory within the “enhanced” areas of the province experiencing a high number of cases. This provincial Order applies to the City as Edmonton and surrounding communities in the Edmonton area. Here’s what you need to know:

**Question:** When did these regulations come into effect?

**Answer:** Saturday, August 1, 2020 (City of Edmonton), Tuesday, November 24 (Government of Alberta).

**Question:** Where am I required to wear masks?

**Answer:** The municipal bylaw applies to any property, whether publicly or privately owned that members of the public can access. This includes retail stores, entertainment venues, recreation centres, restaurants and transit stations. Business owners can decide for themselves if they wish to refuse service to patrons not wearing face coverings. For more information, please visit the COVID-19 section of the City of Edmonton [website](#).

The provincial Order applies to all indoor public places, including workplaces, in the Edmonton region.

**Question:** Where can I get a mask?

**Answer:** Sage is distributing free masks, in partnership with other organizations, to vulnerable seniors in the community. Albertans wishing to wear non-medical masks in situations where physical distancing is not possible can also purchase them from their local pharmacies, grocery stores, or other local retailers.

**Question:** Is it necessary that I wear a mask everywhere while indoors, at all times?

**Answer:** There are limited exceptions to the regulations, including situations where a person is giving or receiving assistance where a facemask would hinder that assistance, instances where a person is alone at a workstation separated from others by at least two meters, or if persons are separated from others by a physical barrier.

**Question:** Are there any exemptions?

**Answer:** The municipal bylaw will not apply to anyone under the age of two, those who cannot put on or remove the mask on their own and those who cannot wear a mask due to a physical or mental concern or limitation. Proof of exemption is not required.

According to Part 5 of the Provincial Order (38-2020), the Chief Medical Officer may exempt a person or class of persons from the application of the Order. Unless expressly exempted, all Albertans are expected to comply.

**Question:** Is it required that I wear a mask outdoors?

**Answer:** No.

**Question:** What happens if I do not comply with these regulations?

**Answer:** Violators could be fined \$100 for non-compliance with the municipal bylaw. Violators of the provincial Order could be fined up to \$500.

**Question:** How long will these restrictions be in effect?

**Answer:** The municipal bylaw was originally in effect until December 31, 2020. On November 19, Council voted to extend the bylaw until December 31, 2021.

The Provincial Order will be in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.