



1001 E. Fayette Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
*Bernard C. "Jack" Young, Mayor*  
*Letitia Dzirasa, M.D., Commissioner of Health*

**HEALTH COMMISSIONER UPDATED DIRECTIVE AND ORDER REGARDING  
FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC**

Pursuant to State Executive Order No. 20-16-10-02  
November 6, 2020

I, Letitia Dzirasa, M.D., Health Commissioner for Baltimore City, Maryland, pursuant to COMAR 10.06.01.06 and the authority delegated to Health Officers by Governor Hogan's Executive Order No. Order No. 20-16-10-02, Section 4-404 of the Baltimore City Health Code and finding it necessary for the prevention and control of 2019 Novel Coronavirus ("SARS-CoV-2" or "2019-NCoV" or "COVID-19") and for the protection of the health and safety of individuals in Baltimore City, Maryland, hereby authorize and order the following actions for the prevention and control of this infectious and contagious disease under the Governor's Declaration of Catastrophic Health Emergency.

**Definitions.** As used herein:

- i. "Face Covering" means a covering that fully covers a person's nose and mouth and is secured to the person's head, but is not a Medical-Grade Mask. The term "Face Covering" includes, without limitation, scarves, bandanas, and plastic full-face shields.
- ii. "Medical-Grade Mask" means an N95, KN95, surgical, or other mask that would be appropriate for a health care setting.
- iii. "Public Transportation" means shared-ride surface transportation services that are open to the general public, including without limitation, taxi services, ride-sharing services, car services, transit services provided by any other unit of the State or any political subdivision, and all related stations and platforms. Examples of Public Transportation include, but are not limited to MTA bus service, MARC train service, Light Rail train service, MTA Metro subway service, and Mobility and Paratransit services.

**B. Requirement to Wear Face Coverings.**

1. Except as provided in paragraph C, all persons two (2) years and older, living within or entering the geographic boundaries of Baltimore City are required to wear a Face Covering when they are:

- i. in or on any Public Transportation;
  
- ii. indoors at any location where members of the public are generally permitted, including without limitation, Religious Facilities, Retail Establishments, Foodservice Establishments, Fitness Centers, Gaming Facilities, the indoor portions of Racing Facilities, Indoor Recreation Establishments, Personal Services Establishments, and Indoor Theaters;
  
- iii. at any Outdoor Sporting Venue or Outdoor Entertainment Venue;
  
- iv. outdoors at any location other than an Outdoor Sporting Venue or Outdoor Entertainment;
  
- v. obtaining healthcare services, including without limitation, in offices of physicians and dentists, hospitals, pharmacies, and laboratories;
  
- vi. engaged in work in any area where:
  - a. interaction with others is likely, including without limitation, in shared areas of commercial offices; or
  - b. food is prepared or packaged; and
  
- vii. in any other public space not otherwise delineated in this Order.

2. Single-use Face Coverings shall be properly discarded in trash receptacles. It is recommended that all reusable Face Coverings be cleaned frequently (at least once per day).

3. Wearing a Medical-Grade Mask satisfies any requirement herein to wear a Face Covering, but all Marylanders are urged to reserve Medical-Grade Masks for use by health care workers and first responders.

C. **Exceptions.** Paragraph B above, does not require persons to wear Face Coverings:

1. if, due to a bona fide disability or medical condition, it would be unsafe for the person to do so;
2. to the extent wearing a Face Covering would impede communication by or with persons who have a hearing impairment or other disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
3. if wearing a Face Covering would subject the person to an unsafe working condition, as determined by federal, state, or local occupational safety regulators or workplace safety guidelines;
4. to the extent wearing a Face Covering would make it impossible to receive services requiring access to the face, mouth, or head, including without limitation, dental care, shaving, and facial treatments;
5. while consuming food or beverages;
6. while swimming or engaging in other physical activities where the use of a Face Covering is likely to pose a bona fide safety risk; or
7. while operating any Public Transportation conveyance, provided that the person is (i) the sole operator of the conveyance, and (ii) located in a separate compartment that is off-limits to riders.
8. non-public schools, child care facilities, and youth camps should continue to follow guidance concerning face coverings issued by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Health.

D. **General Provisions.**

1. This Order remains effective until after termination of the state of emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded, or until rescinded, superseded, amended, or revised by additional orders.
2. The underlined paragraph headings in this Order are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Order.

3. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of the Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Order are severable.

4. An individual who knowingly and willfully violates this Order or any Local Order is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

**THIS ORDER IS ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 6th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020  
AND IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LD', written in a cursive style.

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Letitia Dzirasa, MD, Baltimore City Health  
Commissioner