



Face Covering Ordinance FAQs

When does the face covering ordinance go into effect?

The ordinance goes into effect at starting at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 31, 2020.

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

When will the face covering ordinance expire?

This ordinance is in effect for 30 days and will expire at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday September 8, 2020.

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

Does everyone have to wear a face covering?

Under this ordinance, everyone over the age of 13 will be required to wear a face covering when in public spaces in the city limits of Branson. Exemptions are made for those with a health condition documented by a medical professional, who are hearing impaired and someone who is communicating with a person who is hearing impaired. For more situations in which you should and should not wear a face covering please refer to the questions below.

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

What is considered a face covering?

A face covering is defined as a particulate mask or fabric covering of the nose and mouth secured to the face with ties, loops or elastic that is covering the nose and mouth.

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

What is considered a public space?

A public space is defined as an indoor or outdoor area to which the public is invited or in which the public is permitted, including but not limited to, banks, convention facilities, common areas, promenades, shopping malls, common areas of hotels and motels, laundromats, museums, reception areas, restaurants, retail

establishments, retail stores, schools, spas, sports arenas, theaters, waiting rooms, amusement parks, attractions, and any place where food is prepared or stored.

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

What are some examples of when to wear a face mask? Please note these are just a few examples and not a comprehensive list?

- When shopping at the grocery store or other retail establishment.
- When sitting in the stands close to others while watching a sporting event.
- When walking around spaces in public accommodations open to the public.
- When standing in line at the store or other event.

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

When should I not wear a face mask?

There are several exempted activities listed in this ordinance. Those include:

- While swimming
- While obtaining a service involving the head, face or nose
- While playing a sport, exercising or using exercise equipment
- While outdoors while maintaining a physical distance of at least six feet
- While outdoors who is closer than six feet to family members of people they reside with
- While performing on a fixed stage
- While engaging in public speaking while socially distancing
- Any public safety officer engaged in an emergency situation
- Any person during a wedding ceremony or while photographs of the wedding and reception are taken
- Any family member of a deceased person during a funeral, interment or memorial

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

Are restaurant staff working in the kitchen required to wear a mask?

Cooking areas in restaurants are not considered a public space, so masks are not required in restaurant kitchens.

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

Do I have to wear a face covering in Church?

You do not have to wear a face covering in Church as long as you are social distancing. But you do have to wear a face covering if you are in a waiting area or while walking to and from seating or other parts of Church.

Please refer to the exception #4 in the face covering ordinance that says it is unlawful for any person to be in a public space without wearing a face covering subject to the following exceptions:

Exception #4: "Any person who is in a public space while seated and maintaining a physical distance of at least six feet from other person who are not family members or reside together, but such persons must wear a face covering while in waiting areas and while walking to and from seating or other parts of the premises."

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

Do I have to social distance AND wear a face covering while sitting in a theater?

You do not have to wear a face covering in theater as long as you are social distancing. But you do have to wear a face covering if you cannot maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from other people or while in a waiting area or while walking to and from seating or other parts of a theater.

Please refer to the exception #4 in the face covering ordinance that says it is unlawful for any person to be in a public space without wearing a face covering subject to the following exceptions:

Exception #4: "Any person who is in a public space while seated and maintaining a physical distance of at least six feet from other person who are not family members or reside together, but such persons must wear a face covering while in waiting areas and while walking to and from seating or other parts of the premises."

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How do I make the sign to put in my place of business?

Signs should be made to the specifics of the ordinance. The signs should be prominently displayed and be no smaller than 8.5 inches tall by 11 inches wide that shall contain the following in red lettering at least one-half inch high on white background:

“IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW TO ENTER THE PREMISES WITHOUT A FACE COVERING. IF YOU DO NOT FEEL WELL PLEASE GO HOME. PLEASE MAINTAIN AT LEAST SIX FEET (6’) OF DISTANCE BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE NOT FAMILY MEMBERS OR DO NOT RESIDE TOGETHER.”

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

Can I get a sign from the City?

A business shall be in compliance with the ordinance if they display signage that has been provided to the business by the City of Branson. You can find such signage to print off, from the City, here:

www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12769/Face-Covering-Signage

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

How will this ordinance be enforced?

Education will be the first step in enforcement. We will work to educate any violators of the ordinance before pursuing further action. Failure to comply with this ordinance can result in a \$100 fine and court costs.

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

How can violations be reported?

Just like any other City ordinance, violations of the face covering ordinance can be reported by calling 911.

Full ordinance here: www.bransonmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12751/Face-Covering-Ordinance-PDF

Who do I call for any other questions I have about the ordinance?

For any other questions about this ordinance, please call the office of Branson Emergency Management at 417-337-8584.