



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Town of Fort Mill Face Covering Ordinance

1) What does the new ordinance establish?

Fort Mill Town Council approved an ordinance on Monday, July 6, 2020, requiring the public to wear face coverings while inside any food, retail and service establishments within Town limits and inside any Town government offices.

2) Why did Town Council approve this ordinance?

With cases of COVID-19 continuing to rise within York County, South Carolina, and the country, Town Council wanted to help prevent the spread of the disease at a local level. While wearing a face covering may not prevent the transference of the virus, there is some evidence by the medical community that a covering can help reduce the chance of sharing the virus.

3) When does the ordinance go into effect? How long will it last?

Fort Mill will begin requiring the public to wear face coverings in these locations beginning 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2020. The ordinance will extend for 30 days.

4) What exactly do you mean by 'face covering'?

The ordinance defines a face covering as a uniform piece of cloth, fabric, or other material that securely covers a person's nose and mouth and remains affixed in place without the use of one's hands. Face coverings include, but are not limited to, bandanas, medical masks, cloth masks, scarves, and gaiters, provided that they are worn such that they securely cover the individual's nose and mouth.

5) Where will this ordinance be enforced?

The public will be required to wear a face covering while inside any:

- a) Food service establishment, which is any that sells prepared food on a dine-in, delivery, carry-out, or drive-through basis.
- b) Service establishment, which is any business which offers personal services such as nail and hair salons, barber shops, massage locations, etc.
- c) Retail establishment, including:
 - grocery stores, convenience stores, and any other business that sells non-prepared food
 - commercial stores engaged in the retail sale of goods or services to the public, including sporting goods stores, furniture and home-furnishings stores, clothing, shoe, and clothing-accessory stores; jewelry, luggage, and leather goods stores; department stores; hardware and home-improvement stores; book, craft, and music stores; florists and flower stores; and all other stores that sell supplies for household use
 - pharmacies and other stores that sell medications or medical supplies
 - alcoholic beverage stores
 - laundromats

6) Are employees of food service, retail and service establishments required to wear face coverings?

Yes, all employees in these establishments are required to wear face coverings while working in areas open to the general public and in areas where social distancing of at least six feet cannot be observed. All food service staff who interact with customers, including making deliveries and delivering pick-up orders, must also wear face coverings.

7) Will food service, retail and service establishments have to enforce this ordinance with customers or members of the public?

No, these businesses will not be required to enforce the ordinance for any member of the public.

8) Where are face coverings not required?

Face coverings are not required in the following instances:

- a) in outdoor or unenclosed areas of retail establishments
- b) for people whose religious beliefs prevent them from wearing a face covering
- c) for those who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical or behavioral condition
- d) for children under 10 years old
- e) for patrons of food service establishments while they are dining and/or drinking
- f) in private, individual offices
- g) when complying with directions of law enforcement officers
- h) in settings where it is not practical or feasible to wear a face covering, including when swimming or obtaining services involving the head, face, or scalp, such as dental work, haircuts, or facials
- i) while exclusively with members of a family or the same household

9) What penalties are there for violating the ordinance?

The ordinance notes that any violators will first receive a warning. Any further violation may result in the issuance of a fine between \$25 and \$100. Repeated violations by any establishment could also result in suspension or revocation of occupancy permits or business license for their location.

Updated as of 7/6/20