



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000
Governor Asa Hutchinson
José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

Issued July 18, 2020

Effective July 20, 2020

Modified August 26, 2020

Modified October 5, 2020

Converted to Guidance Effective April 1, 2021

Face Coverings Guidance

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109—110 and the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Reportable Disease (2019).

Community spread of COVID-19 remains active within the State. Therefore, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) makes the following recommendations for how to best prevent transmission of COVID-19.

The Secretary of Health recommends every person in Arkansas to wear a face covering completely over the mouth and nose in all indoor environments, excluding private residences, where they are exposed to non-household members and distancing of six (6) feet or more cannot be assured. In addition, a face covering should be worn in all outdoor settings, excluding private residences, where there is exposure to non-household members, unless there exists ample space of six (6) feet or more to practice physical distancing. This is consistent with [CDC guidance on face coverings](#).

In general, face coverings should be worn:

- By people 2 years of age and older
- Any time you are in a public setting
- [Any time you are traveling](#) on a plane, bus, train, or other form of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations
- When you are around people who do not live with you, including inside your home or inside someone else's home
- Inside your home if someone you live with is sick with [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing;
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.

People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 ≥ 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or ≥ 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen).

The following people should **not** wear a face covering:

- A child under the age of 2 years;
- A person with a health condition or disability who cannot safely wear a face covering, for reasons related to the health condition or disability;
- Persons performing job duties where a six (6) foot distance is not achievable, but a mask is inhibitory to the ability to safely and effectively perform the job duty.

A face covering completely covering the mouth and nose can be purchased commercially, a mask with an ASTM rating of at least Level 1, or homemade using at least two layers of material. Please see [CDC Guidance for Wearing Masks](#) for more information. Masks with valves are not recommended. Bandanas and single-layer neck gaiters (a form of mask made out of stretchy, moisture-wicking fabric that is worn around the neck and pulled up over the nose and mouth) may not provide sufficient protection and are strongly discouraged. Bandanas and gaiters may be doubled to provide two layers of protection. Simple plastic face shields worn without a mask are not considered to be mask substitutes. Masks with sewn-in clear plastic windows or clear plastic masks that seal around nose and chin, such as those utilized by those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing or when seeing lip movements is important, are acceptable.