



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA OF THE FOX CITIES FAQ FOR FACE COVERINGS

Why are face coverings required?

Cloth face coverings (or face masks) are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), and healthcare professionals as an easy way to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks or raises their voice.

Rates of COVID-19 have significantly increased in Wisconsin as more people return to work and have more interactions in public. Wearing face coverings is the simplest way to slow and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus without requiring people to stay in their homes.

When do I need to wear a face covering?

You need to wear a face covering whenever you are inside the YMCA or in an enclosed space, other than a private residence, and other people are present in the same room or space.

When do I not need to wear a face covering?

You do not need to wear a face covering if:

- you are outside; or
- you are indoors and no one else is present.

You can also remove your face covering in the following situations:

- When you are eating or drinking.
- When you are communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing and you cannot communicate while wearing a mask.
- While swimming or being on duty as a lifeguard.
- When you are working if wearing a face covering poses a safety risk, as determined by government safety guidelines or regulations.

Do I need to wear a face covering indoors, even if I can physically distance from other people at all times?

Yes, you need to wear a face covering indoors unless you are the only person in the room.

Do I need to wear a face covering when I exercise?

In accordance with the state mandate, you need to wear a face covering when you are exercising at the YMCA. Masks and face coverings are not required when you are swimming at the YMCA.

Do I need to wear a face covering when eating or drinking?

No. But you must put your face covering on again when you are done with these activities.

I have a medical condition that prevents me from wearing a face covering. Do I need documentation to prove that I don't need to wear a face covering in public?

No. You are not required to carry documentation to prove that you do not need to wear a face covering in public. We respect our member's privacy and you will not be asked if you have a medical condition in accordance to state law.

Can I wear a face shield instead of a face covering?

No. A face shield does not provide the same protections as a face covering. You are free to wear a face shield *in addition* to a face covering. But a face shield cannot be used in place of a face covering that would otherwise be required by this order. Swim Instructors are not required to use face covering in the pool environment but will continue to use shields.

Do I need to wear a face covering when traveling in YMCA-provided transportation?

You are required to wear a mask if you're participating in any YMCA program, including transportation to and from the program, and transportation during the program.

Where can I get more information on how to wear a face covering, safe practices for putting it on and taking it off, and when to wash face coverings?

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has information on its website on wearing, cleaning, and making face coverings (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/protect.htm>). Additional information can be found on the US. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>).

Will the Y provide face coverings for their employees?

Yes. All staff members are required to wear face coverings, except where exemptions apply.

How will the face covering order be enforced?

In accordance with specific state guidance, our staff will not approach a person not wearing a mask. Some members have conditions or circumstances that would make wearing a cloth face covering difficult or dangerous. Masks will be available for and offered to members who do have one upon entering our facilities. Also, there will be signage placed outside and around our facilities to bring awareness to the state order.