



# FACE COVERING PROTOCOLS FOR CITY PREMISES

**Mayor Tommy Battle (“Mayor”)** hereby issues the following face covering protocols (“Protocols”) for premises of the City of Huntsville, Alabama (“City”) until further notice.

**1. Defined terms.**

- (a) “Approved Face Covering” or “Covering” is a mask or other facial covering that covers an individual’s nostrils and mouth at all times and that can be factory-made, homemade, or improvised from household items such as scarves, bandanas, or t-shirts; provided, however, it cannot have exhalation valves or vents, and it must be more than a single layer and cannot be made of thin fabric that does not block the light.
- (b) “City Premises” is a vehicle, building, or other enclosed structure owned or otherwise controlled by the City.

**2. Coverage.** These Protocols, as such may be amended by the Mayor at any time and from time to time, are hereby mandated for all persons while they are inside or upon City Premises.

**3. Effective Date.** These protocols take effect April 9, 2021, and shall continue until such time as they are terminated by the Mayor.

**4. Face-Covering Protocols.** When inside City Premises, each person, even if that person has been vaccinated against COVID-19 or its variants, shall wear an Approved Face Covering, subject to the following exceptions:

(1) *Exceptions for practical necessity.* The Covering requirement does not apply to:

(i) Any child under two years of age;

(ii) Any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents him or her from wearing a Covering;

(iii) Any person while consuming food or drink;

(iv) Any person who is obtaining a service that requires removal of the Covering to perform the service;

(v) Any person who is required to remove the Covering to confirm his or her identity, such as for security or screening purpose; or

(vi) Any City officer, official, or employee while in their private offices or vehicles by themselves.

(vii) Any employee conducting vigorous physical labor or similar activity may be exempted by the supervisor with authority over that direct, immediate activity.

(2) *Exceptions for exercise.* The Covering requirement does not apply to:

(i) Any person who is actively engaged in exercise in a gym or other athletic facility if he or she maintains six feet of separation from persons of another household;

- (ii) Any person who is directly participating in athletic activities as a player or official; or
  - (iii) Any person who is in a swimming pool.
- (3) *Exceptions for effective communication.* The Covering requirement does not apply to:
- (i) Any person who is seeking to communicate with another person where the ability to see the person's mouth is essential for communication (such as when the other person has a hearing impairment); or
  - (ii) Any person speaking for broadcast transmission or for presentation to an audience if the person maintains six feet of separation from other persons.
- (4) *Exceptions for essential job functions.* The Covering requirement does not apply to:
- (i) Any first responder (including law enforcement officers, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel) while performing a public-safety function that necessitates that it be done without the Covering; or
  - (ii) Any person performing a job function if wearing a Covering is inconsistent with industry safety standards or a City department's established safety protocols.

5. **Outdoor Events.** Participants/attendees at outdoor events located in City parks or other outdoor spaces are encouraged to wear coverings and/or practice distancing between non-familial groups. Organizers of events are authorized to set the policy for their specific event.


6. **Posting.** For each City Premises to which these Protocols apply and that is generally open to the public, a sign shall be posted at each public entrance that states: "FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED", or similar words to that effect.

7. **Enforcement.**

(a) Any person that violates these Protocols may be required to leave or exit the City Premises until they comply with the Protocols. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the City from enforcing these Protocols through the trespass laws of the state or City.

(b) Any City employee that violates these Protocols is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the City's Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual.

ISSUED ON THE 5 DAY OF April, 2021.

  
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Tommy Battle, Mayor  
City of Huntsville, Alabama