



Department of Public Health

MAYOR
Oscar Leeser

CITY OF EL PASO HEALTH AUTHORITY ORDER INDOOR MASK MANDATE

CITY COUNCIL

September 2, 2021

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

District 2
Alexandra Annello

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Joe Molinar

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Cissy Lizarraga

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

In light of the presence of the Delta variant, considered the most contagious variant seen throughout the entire pandemic, and other strains of COVID-19 in our community; and with recent research findings indicating that patients infected with the Delta variant are twice as likely to be hospitalized, particularly those with co-morbidities, thus presenting a high possibility for exponential morbidities and mortality to our highly vulnerable population, and pursuant to the Texas Health & Safety Code Section 81.082 and Section 121.024, I hereby order an **indoor face covering mandate** in the City of El Paso, Texas and County of El Paso, Texas, to take effect at **12:01am on Saturday, September 4, 2021**, which shall be in effect until terminated or modified by a subsequent Local Health Authority Order or other superseding order.

This Order is based on current medical evidence concerning COVID-19 and takes into consideration the fact that the County of El Paso tragically is among the leaders in the State of Texas in terms of COVID-19 deaths, as well as the high vulnerability of our population due to morbidities such as complicated and uncontrolled diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity, low health insurance coverage, the fact that our community is considered to be a health professional shortage area and the fact that our community has been greatly affected by the devastating effects of the complications arising from COVID-19.

Universal indoor face covering. This Order is issued, imposing a universal requirement for face coverings to be worn covering the nose and mouth in all indoor locations. Because an infected person can transmit the COVID-19 virus, in particular the Delta variant, to others before showing any symptoms, the covering of a person's nose and mouth is necessary to help slow the spread of the virus. Therefore, **it is imperative that every person in El Paso County shall wear some form of face covering over their nose and mouth**, such as a homemade mask,

Angela Mora – Health Director
Department of Public Health | 5115 El Paso Drive | El Paso, TX 79905
O: (915) 212-6502 | <https://www.elpasotexas.gov/public-health/>

20-1052-1069/PL#1115528/LHA - Indoor Mask Mandate





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scarf, bandana, or handkerchief, preferably medical grade or higher, when inside an indoor location with the exception of private homes, and in shared ride scenarios; provided, however, that this face covering requirement does not apply to the following:

1. any person younger than 2 years of age; parents and guardians of children over the age of 2 and under the age of 10 are responsible for appropriately making their children wear a face covering as required herein;
2. any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
3. any person while the person is consuming food or drink, or is seated at a restaurant to eat or drink;
4. any person while the person is (a) exercising or engaging in physical activity indoors, in a gym or exercise facility, individually or in a group and (b) maintaining a safe distance from other people;
5. any person while the person is driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
6. any person obtaining a service that requires temporary removal of the face covering for security surveillance, screening, or a need for specific access to the face, such as while visiting a bank or while obtaining a personal care service involving the face, but only to the extent necessary for the temporary removal;
7. any person while the person is in a swimming pool or similar body of water;
8. any person who is voting, assisting a voter, serving as a poll watcher, or actively administering an election, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
9. any person who is actively providing or obtaining access to religious worship, unless required by said religious worship entity, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
10. any person while the person is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience.

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Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for the COVID-19 vaccination. Further, it is important to continue maintaining 6-foot social distancing and handwashing as critical steps to slowing the spread of the virus.

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Peter Svarzbein

FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THIS ORDER, INCLUDING ANY AMENDMENTS, IS A CLASS C MISDEMEANOR PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF UP TO \$500.00.

District 2

Alexsandra Anello

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hector I. Ocaranza".

District 3

Cassandra Hernandez

Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D., MPH

District 4

Joe Molinar

Local Health Authority City/County of El Paso, TX

District 5

Isabel Salcido

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