



# PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## City of Manitou Springs To Enact Facial Coverings Requirement

MANITOU SPRINGS CO – With COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths unfortunately trending upward in El Paso County, the State of Colorado, and the United States as a whole, the City of Manitou Springs will enact a facial coverings requirement to promote the public health of everybody, beginning on Monday, August 23rd. As a destination that visitors from around our region, and the world come to experience, we find it of the utmost importance that face coverings are regularly used while indoors within our community.

This Order will also require the use of a face covering in all indoor public areas within Manitou Springs, given certain exceptions. A public indoor space is an enclosed area that is publicly or privately owned that is accessible to the public, a place of employment, or an entity providing services.

As a City, we understand not everyone can wear a facial covering with ease, thus exceptions to the order will include person(s) under the age of 5, person(s) who cannot medically tolerate a face covering.

Business owners have the right and responsibility of requesting anyone in violation of the order leave their establishment. Those who refuse to leave will be handled as a standard trespassing offence through the Manitou Springs Police Department. We are urging our visitors to be respectful to our businesses as they are only trying to protect their employees.

## Q&A

### How will this order differ from the City's previous mask requirement?

The two key differences between the mandate that begins on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the mandate that began mid-year in 2020 is that masks will not be required outside, and that masks are **not** required on children younger than five years old.

### Will law enforcement be citing people for not wearing a mask?

Law Enforcement's first step will be spreading education and awareness about the Order to encourage voluntary compliance and mutual understandings. It is important that throughout this



process, we are working together with our community and our visitors to promote everyone's overall public health and quality of life

The Manitou Springs Police Department will enforce **disturbances** resulting from disputes inside local businesses over the Emergency Order and treat them as any other trespassing issue.

### **What exceptions are there to this Order?**

Key exceptions to this Order are as follows, a full list can be found under Section 5:

- Persons under the age of 5
- Persons who cannot medically tolerate a face covering,
- Persons who are seated at a table in a food establishment
- Individuals who are hearing impaired or individuals who are communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication

### **What is considered a face covering?**

A face covering is a uniform piece of material that securely covers a person's nose and mouth and remains affixed in place without the use of one's hands.

### **Do I need a face covering in my car or inside my house?**

No, this order only mandates face coverings in all public indoor spaces. A public indoor space is an enclosed area that is publicly or privately owned that is accessible to the public, a place of employment, or an entity providing services.

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