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Health Department Urges All Moore County Retailers and Public Facing Businesses to Adhere to Face Covering Mandate

As of June 26th, as part of Executive Order 147, face coverings are now required for customers and employees of open businesses, including restaurants, grocery stores, hardware stores, pharmacies, salons and other retail businesses in North Carolina.

“The face covering mandate set by the Governor is a critical prevention measure that makes sense,” says Health Director Robert Wittmann. “Face coverings help to prevent the droplet spread that occurs when people are in close proximity to others when they cough, sneeze, or even talk. This is one of the main avenues of COVID-19 transmission and every resident should do their part in helping stop the spread of this highly infectious disease by wearing a face covering.”

Businesses must have **all** workers wear face coverings when they are or may be within six feet of another person. This also applies to **all** customers when they are inside an establishment and may be within six feet of another person. There are exceptions to the requirement. The Order excludes any workers, customers, or patrons who meet certain criteria. Those exceptions can be found here in Section II, Part C of the Order:

<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/E0147-Phase-2-Extension.pdf>

Business operators and organizations must rely on their customers or patrons' statements about whether or not they are exempt from the face covering requirement, and businesses and organizations do not violate the Executive Order if they rely on such statements. Individuals are not required to produce documentation or any other proof of a condition.

Citations can be written to businesses or organizations by local law enforcement that fail to enforce the requirement to wear face coverings. Individual workers or customers will not be cited by law enforcement if they are not wearing a face covering. However, if a business or organization does not allow entry to a worker, customer, or patron because that person refuses to wear a face covering, and if that worker, customer, or patron enters the premises or refuses to leave

“To Protect and Promote Health through Prevention and Control of Disease and Injury.”
<http://www.moorecountync.gov/health/>

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the premises, law enforcement personnel may enforce trespassing laws and any other laws that the worker, customer, or patron may violate in the process.

“We strongly recommend that all businesses have staff stationed at entrances to screen customers and patrons before they enter and possibly even provide a mask to them if they can’t produce one on their own,” adds Wittmann.

In addition to face covering requirements, the Health Department also urges Moore County businesses to strictly follow all other mandated and recommended prevention measures such as capacity limits, social distancing cues (signage, floor markings, one-way aisles, etc.), enhanced cleaning procedures, checkout barriers, and health screenings before entry.

“The Health Department has received several calls from concerned residents regarding businesses not adhering to COVID-19 guidelines,” says Wittmann. “Being consistent in following those guidelines is good for public health and can be good for business too, especially in times like these. Customers are more apt to do business when they feel they are doing so in a safe, healthy environment.”

Additional COVID-19 guidance and resources for businesses can be found here:

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/information/business/businesses-and-employers>

Moore County’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard can be found here:

<https://moorecounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/4c11e5bf79b64a6e9c8377d5129cc97c>

For more information about coronavirus and Moore County’s response, please visit www.moorecountync.gov/health, find us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter (@mocohealth).

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