



## DALLAS COUNTY

### EXHIBIT G

#### Guidance on Covering Nose and Mouth

A significant percentage of individuals with the COVID-19 virus lack symptoms. Because an infected person can transmit the virus to others before showing any symptoms, the covering of a person's nose and mouth when visiting an Essential Business is necessary to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is consistent with the findings of the CDC and Dallas County Health Authority.

Staying home is the best way to help reduce the spread of the virus, but if an individual must leave their place of residence to visit an Essential Business, wearing a fabric face mask shall be used as outlined in this Order. Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining 6-foot social distancing and hand washing, as these remain important steps to slowing the spread of the virus. The face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, which are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.

#### **The public in general and Essential Business employees shall comply with the following:**

- A. To the greatest extent possible, all persons over the age of two (2) shall wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana or handkerchief, when:
  - 1) patronizing an Essential Business; and
  - 2) using public transportation, taxis, or ride shares.
- B. This section shall not apply to persons that are:
  - 1) riding in a personal vehicle;
  - 2) engaging in outdoor activity;
  - 3) eating; or
  - 4) when wearing a covering poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk such as anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.

Children under the age of two (including infants) should not wear cloth face coverings. Those between the ages of two and nine should use them but under adult supervision to ensure that the child can breathe safely and avoid choking or suffocation. Children with breathing problems should not wear a face covering. Parents and Guardians of children under 10 shall be responsible for appropriately masking children pursuant to this Order.

All COVID-19 Suspected Positives, those currently being tested, and untested individuals with cough and/or fever, and household members of same category of individuals shall not leave their residence without a mask or cloth face covering to prevent the spread to others.

To the greatest extent possible, all individuals working for an Essential Business must wear a mask or cloth face covering whenever in public and whenever performing job duties in the presence of



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others. To the greatest extent possible, employers shall provide employees with a mask or face covering. An owner or operator of an Essential Business may refuse admission or service to any individual who fails to wear face covering.

Medical grade (N95) and surgical masks should be reserved and used only by medical professionals and first responders. Cloth face coverings are not intended for use by healthcare workers, first responders, and others whose work requires close contact with people who are ill.

Cloth coverings should be made in accordance with CDC Guidance, which can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>



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### DCHHS Social Distancing Rules

#### 1) Vulnerable Populations: Limit Outings

- Vulnerable populations include people who are:
  - 60 years old and older.
  - People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems.
- For vulnerable populations, don't go to gatherings unless it is essential. Stay home. Avoid people who are sick.

#### 2) Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure

- Suspend nonessential employee travel.
- Ensure employees practice social distancing and do not work within six feet of one another.
- Urge essential employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
- Do not require a doctor's note for employees who are sick.
- Maximize telecommuting options.
- Persons who need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefit to the community must take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.

#### 3) Cancel Non-essential Events

- Cancel non-essential events.
- Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
- For events that aren't cancelled, we recommend:
  - Having hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers and tissues available.
  - Frequently cleaning high touch surface areas like counter tops and hand rails.
  - Finding ways to implement social distancing..

#### 4) Schools: Safety First

- Do not have your child attend school if sick.
- If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult the child's doctor about school attendance.
- Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
- Recommend rescheduling or cancelling events that are not essential.
- Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures, and families should prepare for further closures.

#### 5) Transit: Cleaning and Protection

- Increase cleaning of vehicles and high touch surface areas.
- Provide hand washing/hand sanitizers and tissues in stations and on vehicles.
- Ensure social distancing practices are implemented to the full extent possible.



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### **6) Health Care Settings: Avoid as possible, protect the vulnerable**

- Long-term care facilities should have a COVID-19 plan in accordance with CDC or state guidelines.
- Long-term care facilities should restrict all visitation except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end of life situations.
- The general public should avoid going to medical settings such as hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities, even if you are not ill.
- If you are ill, call your health care provider ahead of time, and you may be able to be served by phone.
- Do not visit emergency rooms unless it is essential.
- Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.

### **7) Everyone: Do your part**

The best way for all Dallas County residents to reduce their risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-19:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, like an elbow bump or wave.
- If you have recently returned from a country, state or region with ongoing COVID-19 infections, monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials and CDC guidance.
- There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.

You can also prepare for the disruption caused by an outbreak. Preparedness actions include:

- Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
- Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
- Prepare a child care plan if you or a caregiver are sick.
- Make arrangements about how your family will manage school closures.
- Plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself.
- Take care of each other and check in by phone with friends, family and neighbors that are vulnerable to serious illness or death if they get COVID-19.
- Keep common spaces clean to help maintain a healthy environment for you and others. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned regularly with disinfecting sprays, wipes or common household cleaning products.