

Face Covering Policy for State Buildings in Wyoming

Effective November 5, 2020

Section 1. Policy statement and purpose. The State Building Commission (“Commission”) recognizes that the COVID-19 public health emergency is ongoing and has increased in certain areas of the State. Out of a desire to respect county public health orders where they require all adult persons to wear Face Coverings in public, with certain exceptions, the Commission is adopting this policy. The Commission’s intent is to respect a county’s determinations regarding its local health conditions and the measures implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in its community. It is also the Commission’s intent to operate in accordance with those measures to ensure an efficient and safe work environment for State officials and employees and to promote the safety of the public when visiting State Buildings.

Section 2. Authority. The Commission is authorized pursuant to Wyoming Statute § 9-5-106(a) to adopt rules and regulations relative to the operation, management, and use of all state leased or owned buildings. This policy shall be administratively implemented by the GSD Administrator per State Building Commission Rules, Chapter 3, § 2 in consultation with the CMD Administrator.

Section 3. Scope. This Policy establishes that, whenever county health orders mandate Face Coverings, all adult persons entering State Buildings in those counties shall wear Face Coverings in certain public settings for as long as those orders continue. This requirement is subject to further conditions, as described below.

Section 4. Definitions. The following definitions shall prevail in this policy:

(a) “Face Covering” means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face.

(b) “Occupant Agency” means an agency authorized to own or occupy a facility that is under the Commission’s statutory jurisdiction. The Legislative Service Office and judicial council may assume the rights and authorities of an Occupant Agency to the extent the legislative management council or judicial council concur with this Policy and State Building Commission Rules, Chapter 3, § 2 in accordance with Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 9-5-106(d)(i)–(ii).

(c) “State Building” means any state building under the jurisdiction of the Commission located within the State of Wyoming.

Section 5. Face Coverings mandated; exceptions.

(a) Except as specifically exempted in this Section, all individuals must wear a Face Covering when entering a State Building and in any shared or public space within the State Buildings defined above.

(b) Each Occupant Agency shall post notices stating that Face Coverings are required in a clearly visible location at or near all entrances and public lobbies of the State Building that they occupy.

(c) All State employees working in State Buildings shall wear Face Coverings when interacting with the public or working in a space visited by members of the public, such as by way of example, but not limited to: reception areas, service counters, public restrooms, lobbies, waiting rooms, service areas, and other spaces used to interact with the public.

(d) A Face Covering is not required under the following circumstances:

(i) When a State employee is in an enclosed personal office (a single room) where others outside of that State employee's household are not present as long as the public does not regularly visit the room. However, the employee must wear a Face Covering when being visited by a client, customer, or a member of the public and social distancing (6 feet apart) cannot be maintained.

(ii) When State employees are in non-public areas, as long as at least six (6) feet of distance can be maintained between all occupants.

(iii) If the individual is a minor. Minors are not required to wear a face covering, however minors three years old and older are encouraged to wear Face Coverings. Minors age two years or younger should not wear a Face Covering.

(iv) If the individual has a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes, but is not limited to, individuals with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance. An individual is not required to provide any documentation or explanation demonstrating that the person cannot wear a face covering for any medical condition, mental health condition, or disability.

(v) If an individual is hearing impaired, or communicating with an individual who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.

(vi) If wearing a face covering would create a risk to the individual related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal workplace safety guidelines.

(vii) If the individual is obtaining a service or function for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform that service or function.

(e) An Occupant Agency may grant exceptions to this Policy on a case by case basis after evaluating the request and determining good cause exists for the exception. This Policy shall remain in effect until all county public health orders mandating Face Coverings expire.