Mayor Turner asks Houstonians to follow Harris County Face Covering Order

HOUSTON - Mayor Sylvester Turner joined Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and local health officials April 22 to announce details of a new order issued by Harris County that requires everyone over the age of 10 to wear a face covering when outside their home, with exceptions. This order is effective at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020 through May 26, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

View the complete Harris County Order [HERE](https://houstonemergency.org/covid19translated/).

Understanding the Order

When leaving your home and when in public places all persons over the age of 10 must wear some form of face covering that covers the nose and mouth.

- Public places include pharmacies, grocery stores, public transit, or work areas where it is difficult to maintain the recommended 6 feet of social distance.
- Face coverings may be a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief, as long as it covers the nose and mouth (see link below on how to make your own).

Exceptions to Mandatory Face Covering

You must wear a face covering at all times, except:

- When eating or drinking;
- When you are exercising or doing physical activities outdoors;
- When you are alone in a single space, indoors or outdoors;
- When you are at home with other family members who live with you; or,
- When wearing a face covering poses a mental, physical, safety or security risk (i.e. someone who has trouble breathing).

Choosing and Wearing a Face Covering

The city encourages people to purchase or make a face covering to wear. When choosing a face covering, we encourage residents NOT to use medical or N-95 masks so they remain available for health care providers and first responders.

View instructions on how to make your own mask: [https://houstonemergency.org/covid19translated/](https://houstonemergency.org/covid19translated/)

The CDC recommends that all face coverings:

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction

When wearing a face covering, it is also important to:

- Avoid touching your nose or face, or readjusting mask often
- Do not using disposable masks more than three times; and
- Wash reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

Continue Good Health Habits

Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining 6-feet social distancing and hand washing because these remain important steps to slowing the spread of the virus. View more guidance at [www.houstonemergency.org/covid19](http://www.houstonemergency.org/covid19) or call the Houston Health Department COVID-19 Call Center at 832-393-4220.

Enforcement

Failure to wear a mandatory face covering under this Order is punishable by up to $1,000.