



Supervisor Tony Buffington
Blue Ridge District
NewsFlash



Governor Northam Announces Face Cover Requirement

Sent: May 28, 2020

Governor Northam issued **Executive Order Sixty-Three** requiring Virginians to wear face covers in public indoor settings to help contain the spread of COVID-19. A face covering includes anything that covers your nose and mouth, such as a mask, scarf, or bandana.

Please note that per Loudoun's Health Department Director, this Executive Order will be enforced by the VA Department of Health, and SHOULD NOT be enforced by local Health Departments or local law enforcement. Anyone with concerns regarding non-compliance should call the VA Department of Health's call center at: 1-877-ASK-VDH3

See below for the Governor's full press release.



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor

Executive Order

NUMBER 63 (2020)

ORDER OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FIVE

REQUIREMENT TO WEAR FACE COVERING
WHILE INSIDE BUILDINGS

*From the Office of Governor
Northam*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam today signed Executive Order Sixty-Three, requiring Virginians to wear face coverings in public indoor settings to help contain the spread of the novel

coronavirus. The Governor also directed the Department of Labor and Industry to develop emergency temporary standards to prevent workplace exposure to COVID-19.

Governor Northam also signed an amended Executive Order Fifty-One, extending Virginia's state of emergency declaration.

The new executive order supports previous actions the Governor has taken to respond to COVID-19 in Virginia, and ensures workers and consumers are protected as the Commonwealth gradually eases public health restrictions. The Governor's statewide requirement for wearing face coverings is grounded in science and data, including recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) that individuals should wear face coverings in public settings. Face coverings do not take the place of public health guidelines to maintain six feet of physical distancing, increase cleaning and sanitation, and wash hands regularly.

"We are making progress to contain the spread of the COVID-19 and now is not the time for Virginians to get complacent," **said Governor Northam**. "Science shows that face coverings are an effective way to prevent transmission of the virus, but wearing them is also a sign of respect. This is about doing the right thing to protect the people around us and keep everyone safe, especially as we continue to slowly lift public health restrictions in our Commonwealth."

A face covering includes anything that covers your nose and mouth, such as a mask, scarf, or bandana. Medical-grade masks and personal protective equipment should be reserved for health care professionals. Under the Governor's executive order, any person age ten and older must wear a mask or face covering at all times while entering, exiting, traveling through, and spending time in the following public settings:

- Personal care and grooming businesses
- Essential and non-essential brick and mortar retail including grocery stores and pharmacies
- Food and beverage establishments
- Entertainment or public amusement establishments when permitted to open
- Train stations, bus stations, and on intrastate public transportation, including in waiting or congregating areas
- State and local government buildings and areas where the public accesses services
- Any indoor space shared by groups of people who may congregate within six feet of one another or who are in close proximity to each other for more than ten minutes

Exemptions to these guidelines include while eating and drinking at a food and beverage establishment; individuals who are exercising; children under the age of two; a person seeking to communicate with a hearing-impaired person, for which the mouth needs to be visible; and anyone with a health condition that keeps them from wearing a face covering. Children over the age of two are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering to the extent possible.

The Governor is also directing the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry to develop emergency temporary standards for occupational safety that will protect employees from the spread of COVID-19 in their workplaces. These occupational safety standards will require the approval by vote of the Virginia Safety and Health Codes Board and must address personal protective equipment, sanitation, record-keeping of incidents, and hazard communication.

Upon approval, the Department of Labor and Industry will be able to enforce the standards through civil penalties and business closures.

The full text of Executive Order Sixty-Three and Order of Public Health Emergency Five is available [here](#).

The text of amended Executive Order Fifty-One is available [here](#).

[Full Release](#)

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Coronavirus - We're in it together, we'll get through it together - Tony

Be safe!



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