

Workplaces: What You Need to Know

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Instructions About Face Coverings¹

All businesses, organizations, and services are asked to continue to follow best practice for preventing the spread of COVID-19:

- **Physically distance:** To the fullest extent possible, ensure effective measures are in place to maintain physical distancing amongst all persons who enter the premises.
- **Promote hand hygiene:** Practice cough and sneeze etiquette, encourage hand washing and make alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with minimum alcohol concentration of 60%) available at all entrances and exits.
- **Wear face coverings²:** To the fullest extent possible and when physical distancing is challenging or not possible, ensure all persons wear a face covering.

Effective Friday, July 24, 2020, the use of face coverings will be required in certain enclosed public spaces (of businesses, organizations, and services) and transportation in our district.

Owners/operators need to:

1. Promote to all persons the use of face coverings to protect others from COVID-19 spread.
2. Post clearly visible [signage](#) stating that face coverings are required inside the building.
3. Have a [policy](#) in place to prevent all persons³ who do not have exemption, from entering the premises or transportation if not wearing a face covering. Ensure that all staff are fully aware of the policy and how to implement.
4. Certain exemptions for the face covering requirement apply, such as: age (children under the age of two years or under the age of five years either by birth age or mental development and cannot be persuaded); health or ability; religious officiants; staff working within or behind a physical barrier (e.g. plexiglass barrier) *provided physical distancing of two metres can be maintained among staff*; or staff working in an area of an enclosed public space that is not designated for public access and where physical distancing of two metres can be maintained.
5. The strength of enforcement is up to the local business, organization, or service. A business, organization, or service has the right to deny entry to their premises, however implementation of the policy should be enforced in 'good faith' and primarily used as a means to educate people on face covering use in enclosed public spaces. **No proof of exemption is required.**

Face coverings protect others. Let's work together to keep safe from COVID-19.

See Health Unit Website for [Frequently Asked Questions, a Sample Policy & Signage](#)







¹[Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act, 2020](#), previously under the [Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act \(EMCPA\)](#) and related Regulations: see letter from Medical Officer of Health, dated July 17, 2020.

² A **face covering** is a cloth face covering, or other face covering with *preferably* two layers of material that securely covers the nose, mouth, and chin and is in contact with the surrounding face without gapping in order to contain coughs, sneezes and respiratory spit and spray of the person wearing the face covering. Face coverings such as a bandana, scarf, cloth, niqab or burka are not designed to filter air and do not have a number of layers; however they are a better alternative if a face covering is not available. (Where possible, a cloth mask should be worn underneath a head covering to ensure best fit against the face.)

³ A **person** means any customer, client, patron, staff member or visitor, who enters the premises.

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