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## Public Health Face Covering Order

The following questions were posed by DBOT members June 11<sup>th</sup> 2020, with the following responses received June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.

### **Q1. Who is exempt from wearing a mask?**

- A Person shall be exempt from wearing a Face Covering on the premises if:
  1. The Person is a child under the age of two years; or a child under the age of 5 years either chronologically or developmentally and he or she refuses to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver;
  2. Wearing a Face Covering would inhibit the Person's ability to breathe in any way;
  3. For any other medical reason, the Person cannot safely wear a Face Covering such as, but not limited to, respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties or difficulties in hearing or processing information.
- Establishments the Order does not cover include (i.e. exempt):
  - Churches or faith settings
  - Day camps
  - Day care centres
  - Schools
  - Libraries
  - Community centres
  - Offices that are not open to members of the public
  - Professional offices where clients receive purchased services (e.g. lawyer's/accountant's office) that are not open to members of the public
  - Private transportation (bus/taxi/limo)
  - Public transportation (bus/train)
  - Hospitals,
  - Independent health facilities,
  - Offices of regulated health professionals

### **Q2. How will this be enforced?**

- Enforcement of this Order is through education.
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**Q3. How are we supposed to know who qualifies to not have to wear one without violating their privacy?**

- If someone claims an exemption – accept their word and wish them well. No need to prove exemption.

**Q4. If a person had asthma do they need to wear the mask?**

- Not if asthmas (or other respiratory/breathing condition) interferes with their ability to breath – asthma is a condition that is considered an exemption

**Q5. When employees are working in hot or humid environments and it is difficult to breathe is a mask required to be worn?**

- Masks are for indoor use in public areas of a business. Outdoor places are exempt.

#### **Isolation/Social Distancing**

**Q6. If I'm sitting in my office alone I should have to wear a mask?**

- No

**Q7. Do my employees have to wear masks when they are working far apart (more than 2 meters) in the facility?**

- No – providing they are working in an area without public access

#### **Stage 2**

**Q8. We have been deemed an essential service since the beginning of the state of emergency. Are we impacted by the new policy or this this only in place for those establishments that are reopening as part of Phase 2?**

- The Order applies to previously open business providing they have public access

**Q9. Is this for businesses that are just starting to reopen only? Not ones that haven't been shut down correct?**

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- The order applies to all applicable business (even if they were open in Phase 1): A Commercial Establishment and Establishment mean those portions of a fixed commercial premises that are openly accessible to members of the public and that are used for the purposes of offering goods or services for sale to members of the public and include a mall or other structure containing a number of commercial premises, and, without limiting the generality of the forgoing, include the following:
    - Retail stores
    - Convenience stores
    - Malls/plazas
    - Restaurants
    - Personal service settings
    - Grocery stores and bakeries
    - Gas stations
    - Farmer's markets
    - Areas of Mechanics' shops/garages / repair shops which are open to the public

**Q10. If we have been operational since the beginning and can conduct our business with Social distancing and hand sanitization, why are we being mandated to enforce masks?**

- Masks are an additional precaution to limit the spread of respiratory droplets to others

#### **Face Shields Vs. Masks**

**Q11. Doesn't it say "face covering"? Would face shield not qualify for this mandate?**

- Face shields protect the wearer whereas a "mask" contains/limits/restricts respiratory droplets from being spread to others thereby protecting others (not the wearer of the "mask")

#### **Enforcement**

**Q12. Can we be fined if a customer refuses to follow the policy?**

- There is no ticket to fine people who do not follow the Order. Any fine would be subject to the decision of a Justice of the Peace through Provincial Offenses Court

**Q13. Can we be fined if an employee refuses to follow the policy?**

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- Any fine would be subject to the decision of a Justice of the peace though Provincial Offenses Court

**Q14. We do not want to have conflict within the store - what can a business owner do to stand up for themselves in this situation?**

- Best approach is be supportive and remind people to wear a face covering when in the shop and avoid conflict

I Hope this helps,

Chris

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