

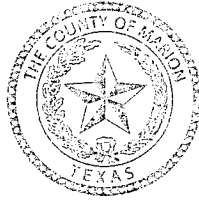


# MARION COUNTY STRONG C.L.E.A.N. INITIATIVE

THE COUNTY JUDGE'S EFFORTS TO  
**OPEN MARION COUNTY**

**MAY 2020**

119 West Lafayette Street, Suite 1  
Jefferson, Texas 75657



(903) 665-3261  
Fax (903) 665-8732

**Hon. Leward J. LaFleur**  
**Marion County Judge**

Dear Marion County,

Over the last couple of months we have been faced with a relentless enemy that has left devastation upon many families and businesses across the nation. COVID-19 has stolen loved ones from our families, it's stolen our health, our jobs, our time, and most of all, our sense of security.

There is no doubt that these have been some of the most challenging times for us, but Marion County is strong and I know - TOGETHER - we will come out on the other side of this stronger, wiser, and healthier.

As we begin to re-open Marion County for business, we understand that our sense of normal has changed. Moving forward, in order to protect our families, community, and visitors, we must be more proactive with our health and safety.

As American citizens our freedom comes with responsibility. The people can do far more than any government is capable of. That is why our office is empowering the people of Marion County with the CLEAN Initiative.

The CLEAN Initiative is a voluntary program that implements proactive preventative measures to ensure optimal health and safety for our community and cherished visitors.

We will be measured and cautious, and take this transition step by step. Together, we can prevent the spread of COVID-19 and we can get Marion County back open for business.

You can contact my office or call me directly with any questions or concerns. I'm here to help.

Marion County Strong,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. J. LaFleur", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Judge Leward J. LaFleur

Office: 903-665-3261  
Cell: 903-930-1782  
Email: [leward.lafleur@co.marion.tx.us](mailto:leward.lafleur@co.marion.tx.us)



### **Recommendations – Nursing Facilities**

The number of infections of staff and residents in nursing facilities continues to grow. The number of fatalities of nursing facility residents continues to grow. Enhanced response and control measures are needed to ensure greater protection for those vulnerable Texans and their families.

A consistent and strong response is needed now to effectively bend the COVID-19 curve in these facilities. This order will ensure all nursing facilities engage in strong and comprehensive mitigation plans to control infection spread.

**Recommendation 1: Quantify the extent of the infection immediately:** The first step in the process is to know exactly what level of infection exists at a facility. Upon the first positive test result of a nursing facility staff member or resident, the facility shall work with local health authorities, DSHS, and HHSC to coordinate testing of nursing facility staff and residents. In addition, nursing facilities will have access to the Rapid Assessment Quick Response Force to provide rapid response and a medical triage team that can be deployable by DSHS through the Emergency Medical Task Force upon notification of a positive COVID-19 patient. If needed, an additional team can be sent to assist the facility with immediate needs.

**Recommendation 2: Implement a comprehensive mitigation plan:** First, the facility should immediately initiate measures to control the infection using best practices and CDC requirements. Second, as soon as any test results are available, the facility shall further implement a comprehensive mitigation plan that takes into account the extent of the test results and directly addresses all isolation, infection control, staffing, and other operational aspects of the facility. The mitigation plan must address the specific level of infection that is discovered in that facility.

**Recommendation 3: Re-evaluate current COVID-19 positive facilities:** Those currently positive facilities that have not completed comprehensive testing will need to conduct an assessment of their current infection levels and consult with local health authorities, DSHS, and HHSC to coordinate testing of nursing facility staff and residents. The facility will then develop and implement a comprehensive mitigation plan with any additional testing results taken into consideration.

This will require the state regulatory and public health experts, local public health partners, and health system partners to engage with the nursing facility to ensure that collection kits are available, and that testing is conducted quickly and efficiently, so that the comprehensive mitigation plan is implemented immediately.

**Recommendation 4: Appropriate isolation and placement of COVID-19 patients:** The comprehensive mitigation plans should first and foremost focus on complete containment of the infection level present at that facility. The residents who are positive need to be isolated in the most effective manner available such as removal to a different facility (possibly a COVID-19 positive dedicated facility) or removal to an isolated wing of their facility. The facility should also place limitations on movement of positive residents within the facility, as well as relocate any residents to designated COVID-19 negative areas/wings.

**Recommendation 5: Implement enhanced access controls to the facility:** The mitigation plan shall manage and control access to the facility by the healthcare partners who frequent the facility and any other individuals providing critical services in the facility. The plan should keep individuals from interacting with both positive



and non-positive patients. This should include complete limitations on any unnecessary visitations, enhanced screening and decontamination techniques, and limited access to the facility through special entrances to control infection.

**Recommendation 6: Enhance control of staff access to the facility:** To the greatest extent possible, facilities should discourage staff and employees from working at multiple facilities. This is not a prohibition, which could lead to further staffing shortages, but additional control measures should be taken, and, in some circumstances, limitations are necessary. Facilities should establish very clear definitions, roles, and requirements for each different type of clinical or staffing partner which is employed by or provides services within a nursing facility. The screening criteria above should reflect the risk factors for each type of partner. Additionally, facilities should strengthen existing protocols for third party providers who “come and go” to deliver services at other facilities, ensuring the use of a separate entrance and exit, decontamination practices, and greater screening criteria or restrictions if a person has been at a facility with COVID-19 positive results.

**Recommendation 7: Effective notifications:** The facility shall implement immediate measures to inform all who interact (or may have recently interacted) with a facility with positive patient(s) so that further limitations can be enacted to control the spread of infection to residents, family members, medical staff, therapists, and other service providers who may frequent the facility. This needs to be done in strict adherence to CDC guidelines, DSHS guidance, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) guidance, and the HHSC Nursing Facility Response Plan.

**Recommendation 8: Continue prevention efforts in facilities that do not have an infection:** Facilities that do not have a positive detection to-date will continue to undergo infection control assessments and enhancements in compliance with guidance from CDC guidelines, DSHS guidance, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) guidance, and the HHSC Nursing Facility Response Plan. HHSC staff will engage with local facilities to provide additional support and help identify any required changes or enhancements to infection control strategies/procedures to minimize the risk of introducing COVID-19 into the facility.

This plan requires strong partnership and engagement between all local and state officials. Upon a positive test result, the nursing facility must notify and work with local public health department officials, HHSC regulatory staff, and DSHS public health experts to seek input so that the comprehensive mitigation plan is in compliance with this order. Nursing facilities must also adhere to reporting requirements established by CMS.

DSHS and HHSC will develop additional guidance to other long-term care facilities (such as assisted living facilities and intermediate care facilities and others) to enhance infection control standards in those facilities. Finally, agency staff will develop the standards for recovery for staff and residents in a long-term care facility, which will inform any modifications to mitigation strategies and the need for any further testing.



## LONG-TERM CARE: HHSC/DSHS COMPREHENSIVE MITIGATION PLAN

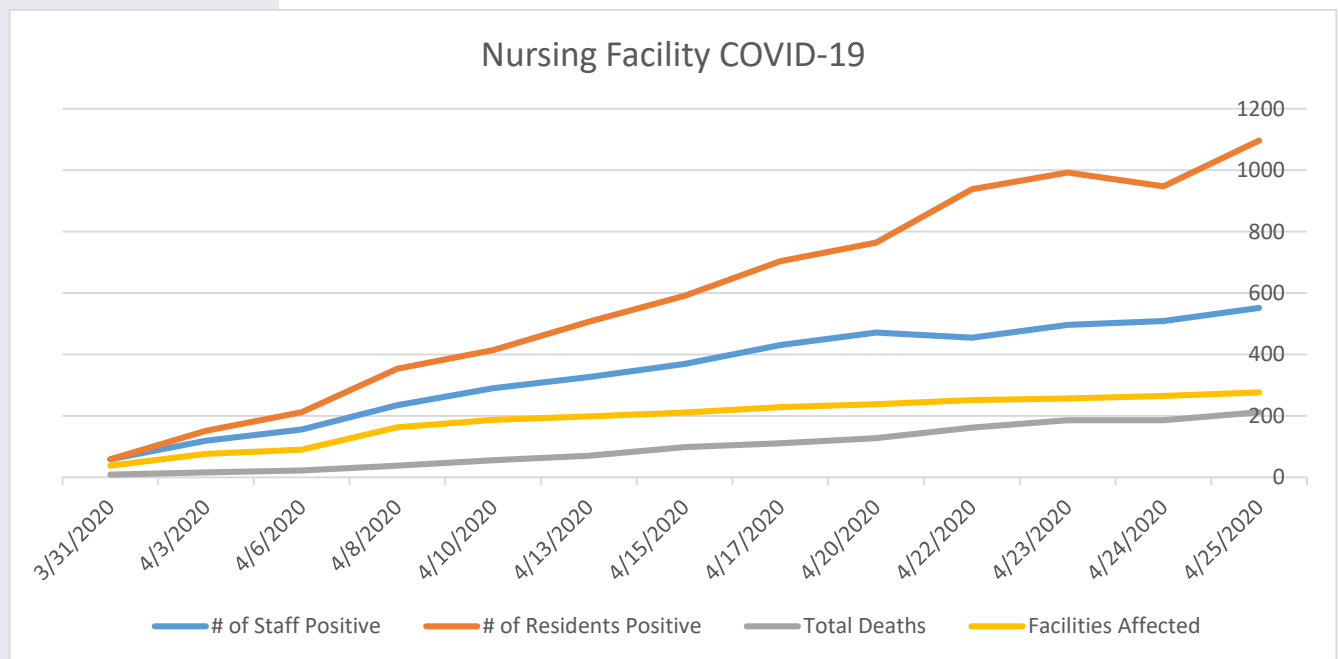
### Introduction

Recent reports highlight the rapid increase of confirmed COVID-19 cases in nursing homes and assisted living communities in Texas. According to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), approximately 19 percent of nursing homes and three percent of assisted living communities have reported positive cases.

There are 1,220 nursing facilities in Texas as of April 25, 2020. As of that date, Texas has 90,689 residents in nursing facilities across the state. The Texas Health Care Association estimates 150,000 staff work in these facilities across Texas, such as healthcare workers, auxiliary, and other staff.

HHSC has developed this comprehensive mitigation plan, including recommendations to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 cases in long-term care facilities. The recommendations set forth in this plan are strategies to help mitigate the further spread of COVID-19. These recommendations are designed to further decrease the risk for spread of infection of COVID-19 in nursing facilities. These recommendations are based on observation of effective and ineffective control methods in the field as this crisis has progressed.

### COVID-19 in Nursing Facilities





## STEPS TO OPEN TEXAS BUSINESSES

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who appear to have few or no symptoms.

Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk.

Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols on the following pages, all of which will support a safe and measured reopening of Texas.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities.

We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.

**Individuals, employers, employees, and customers are encouraged to review, print out, and follow the MINIMUM health protocols recommended by DSHS in the checklists on the following pages, in addition to federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards. The DSHS minimum recommended health protocols are subject to change based on new and evolving information.**

Additional information resources for businesses:

- **CDC Guidelines:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- **ADA:** [https://www.ada.gov/emerg\\_prep.html](https://www.ada.gov/emerg_prep.html)
- **OSHA:** <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>



## FROM THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

There is much we know about COVID-19.

We know it has had a devastating impact across our nation.

We know there is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

And we know the best way to prevent infection is to take steps to avoid exposure. We have seen this work in Texas, where Texans are taking actions to stop infections.

But there is much more to know.

Based on our current understanding, the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread:

- Mainly from person to person;
- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet); and
- Via respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes; these droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled.

People are thought to be most contagious early in their illness, but COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons even before they show any symptoms.

**That is why we must remain cautious — to avoid further spread or a new outbreak.**

As we begin to open Texas, we must continue to follow these critical health guidelines:

- **Stay home if you can.**
- **Wash hands often and for 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.**
- **Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, doorknobs, and other places touched often.**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**

Continue to practice social distancing, avoid crowds, and limit physical contact. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends using simple cloth face coverings in public to help slow the spread of the virus.

Special guidance for Texans over 65 is outlined on page 6, and for all Texans on page 8. Opening businesses have added responsibilities outlined beginning on page 19.

**Every Texan is part of the solution.** You can protect yourself, your family, and your community.

**John William Hellerstedt, M.D.**, Chief Medical Officer  
Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services



## CHECKLIST FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS

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*In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all individuals in Texas. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization.*

### Health protocols for individuals:

- Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals not within the same household. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- Self-screen before going into a business for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Diarrhea
  - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a business and after any interaction with employees, other customers, or items in the business.
- Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) when entering a business, or when within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of the individual's household. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.





## CHECKLIST FOR ALL EMPLOYERS

Page 1 of 2

*In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all businesses choosing to operate in Texas. Employers may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Employers should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Employers should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards.*

### Health protocols for your employees:

- Train all employees on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- Screen employees before coming into the business:
  - Send home any employee who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:

- Cough	- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	- Loss of taste or smell
- Chills	- Diarrhea
- Repeated shaking with chills	- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Muscle pain	- Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- Headache	
  - Do not allow employees with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
    - In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed



## ALL EMPLOYERS: Page 2 of 2

*since recovery* (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*; or

- In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
  - If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
- Do not allow an employee with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).
- Have employees wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the business.
- Have employees maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- If an employer provides a meal for employees, employers are recommended to have the meal individually packed for each employee.
- Consistent with the actions taken by many employers across the state, consider having all employees wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, employees should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

### Health protocols for your facilities:

- Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
- Disinfect any items that come into contact with customers.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and customers.
- Place readily visible signage at the business to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.

# Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

## How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings should—

- 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
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

## CDC on Homemade Cloth Face Coverings

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.

CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

## Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly? How regularly?

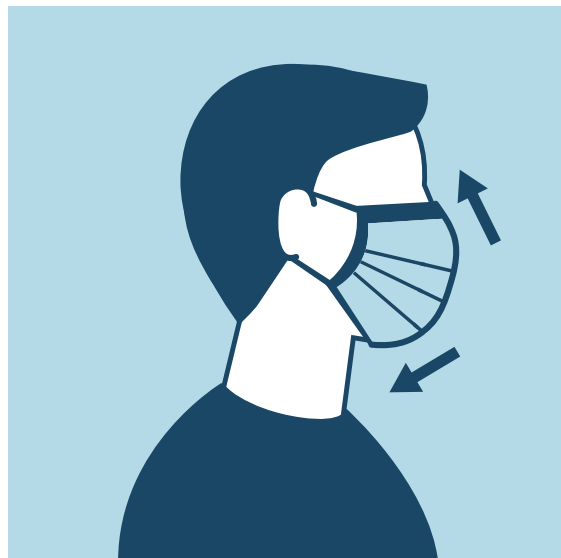
Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.

## How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering?

A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a cloth face covering.

## How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?

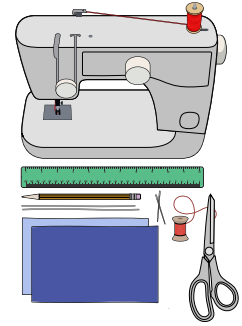
Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.



# Sewn Cloth Face Covering

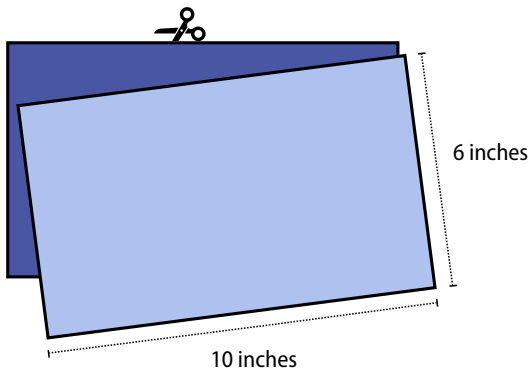
## Materials

- Two 10"x6" rectangles of cotton fabric
- Two 6" pieces of elastic (or rubber bands, string, cloth strips, or hair ties)
- Needle and thread (or bobby pin)
- Scissors
- Sewing machine

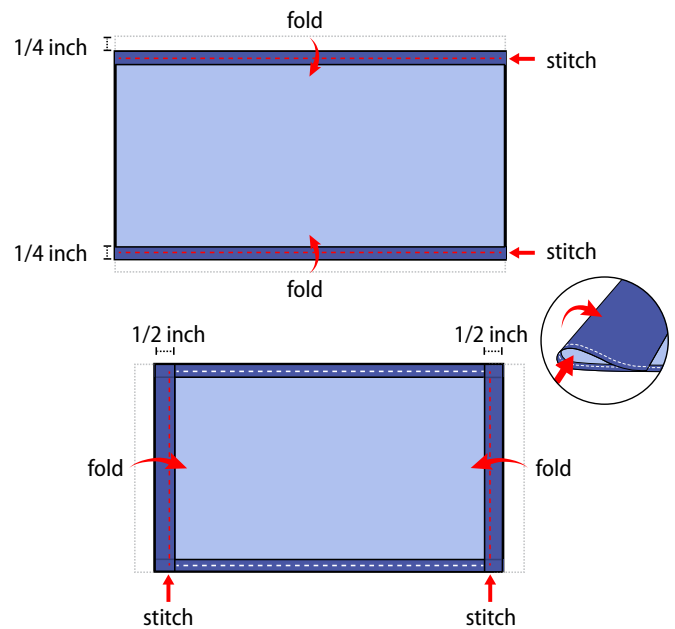


## Tutorial

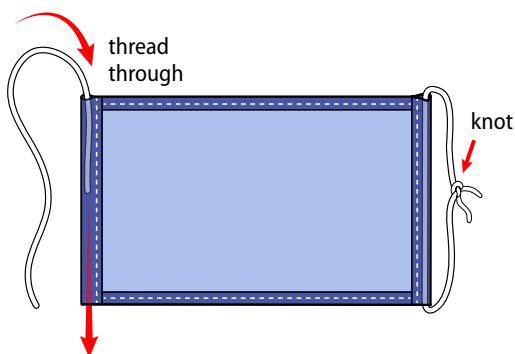
1. Cut out two 10-by-6-inch rectangles of cotton fabric. Use tightly woven cotton, such as quilting fabric or cotton sheets. T-shirt fabric will work in a pinch. Stack the two rectangles; you will sew the cloth face covering as if it was a single piece of fabric.



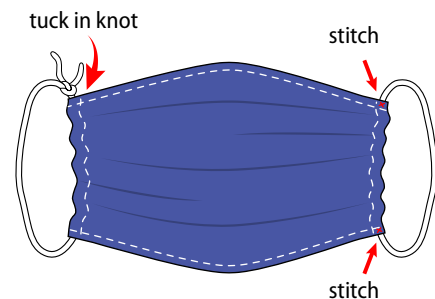
2. Fold over the long sides  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch and hem. Then fold the double layer of fabric over  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch along the short sides and stitch down.



3. Run a 6-inch length of  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch wide elastic through the wider hem on each side of the cloth face covering. These will be the ear loops. Use a large needle or a bobby pin to thread it through. Tie the ends tight. Don't have elastic? Use hair ties or elastic head bands. If you only have string, you can make the ties longer and tie the cloth face covering behind your head.



4. Gently pull on the elastic so that the knots are tucked inside the hem. Gather the sides of the cloth face covering on the elastic and adjust so the mask fits your face. Then securely stitch the elastic in place to keep it from slipping.

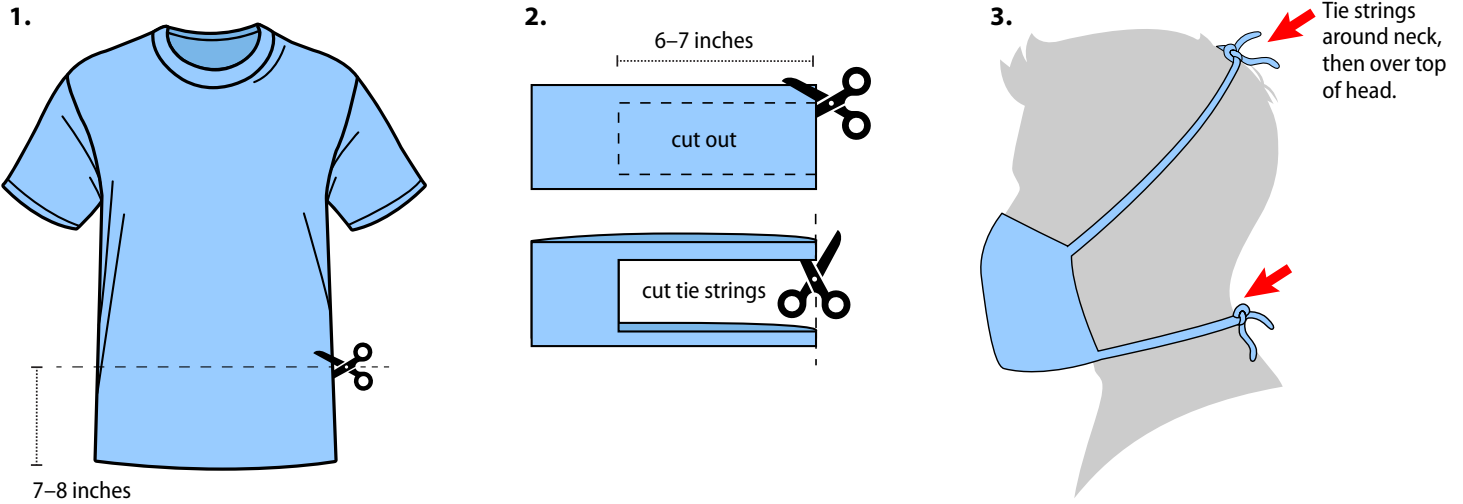


# Quick Cut T-shirt Cloth Face Covering (no sew method)

## Materials

- T-shirt
- Scissors

## Tutorial

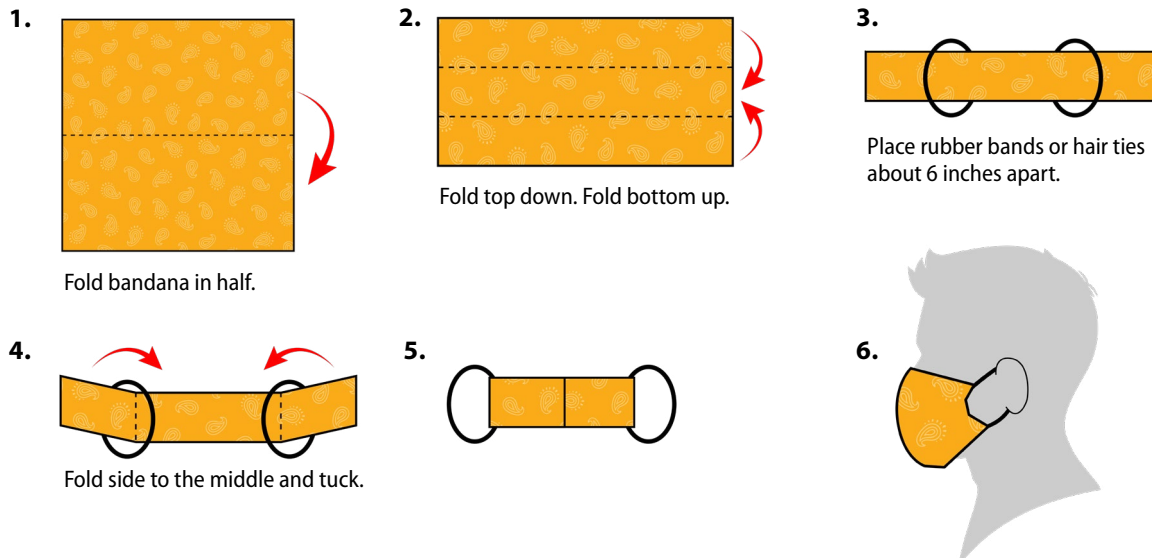


# Bandana Cloth Face Covering (no sew method)

## Materials

- Bandana (or square cotton cloth approximately 20"x20")
- Rubber bands (or hair ties)
- Scissors (if you are cutting your own cloth)

## Tutorial



# Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer Use

## at Home, at Play, and Out and About



Germs are everywhere! They can get onto hands and items we touch during daily activities and make you sick. Cleaning hands at key times with soap and water or hand sanitizer is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to those around you.

There are important differences between washing hands with soap and water and cleaning them with hand sanitizer. For example, alcohol-based hand sanitizers don't kill ALL types of germs, such as a stomach bug called norovirus, some parasites, and *Clostridium difficile*, which causes severe diarrhea. Hand sanitizers also may not remove harmful chemicals, such as pesticides and heavy metals like lead. Handwashing reduces the amounts of all types of germs, pesticides, and metals on hands. Knowing when to clean your hands and which method to use will give you the best chance of preventing sickness.

### When should I use?

#### Soap and Water

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the bathroom, changing diapers, or cleaning up a child who has used the bathroom
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal food or treats, animal cages, or animal waste
- After touching garbage
- If your hands are visibly dirty or greasy

#### Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer

- Before and after visiting a friend or a loved one in a hospital or nursing home, unless the person is sick with *Clostridium difficile* (if so, use soap and water to wash hands).
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, and wash with soap and water as soon as you can.

\* Do **NOT** use hand sanitizer if your hands are visibly dirty or greasy: for example, after gardening, playing outdoors, or after fishing or camping (unless a handwashing station is not available). Wash your hands with soap and water instead.



## How should I use?

### Soap and Water

- **Wet** your hands with clean running water (warm or cold) and apply soap.
- **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap.
- **Scrub** all surfaces of your hands, including the palms, backs, fingers, between your fingers, and under your nails. Keep scrubbing for 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song twice.
- **Rinse** your hands under clean, running water.
- **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

### Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent swallowing alcohol, especially in schools and childcare facilities.

- **Apply.** Put enough product on hands to cover all surfaces.
- **Rub** hands together, until hands feel dry. This should take around 20 seconds.

**Note:** Do not rinse or wipe off the hand sanitizer before it's dry; it may not work as well against germs.



For more information, visit the CDC handwashing website, [www.cdc.gov/handwashing](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing).

# Handwashing

## at Home, at Play, and Out and About



Germs are everywhere! They can get onto your hands and items you touch throughout the day. Washing hands at key times with soap and water is one of the most important steps you can take to get rid of germs and avoid spreading germs to those around you.

### How can washing your hands keep you healthy?

Germs can get into the body through our eyes, nose, and mouth and make us sick. Handwashing with soap removes germs from hands and helps prevent sickness. Studies have shown that handwashing can prevent 1 in 3 diarrhea-related sicknesses and 1 in 5 respiratory infections, such as a cold or the flu.

### Handwashing helps prevent infections for these reasons:



People often touch their eyes, nose, and mouth without realizing it, introducing germs into their bodies.



Germs from unwashed hands may get into foods and drinks when people prepare or consume them. Germs can grow in some types of foods or drinks and make people sick.



Germs from unwashed hands can be transferred to other objects, such as door knobs, tables, or toys, and then transferred to another person's hands.



### What is the right way to wash your hands?

1. Wet your hands with clean running water (warm or cold) and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap.
3. Scrub all surfaces of your hands, including the palms, backs, fingers, between your fingers, and under your nails. Keep scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song twice.
4. Rinse your hands under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
National Center for Emerging and  
Zoonotic Infectious Diseases



## When should you wash your hands?

Handwashing at any time of the day can help get rid of germs, but there are key times when it's most important to wash your hands.

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the bathroom, changing diapers, or cleaning up a child who has used the bathroom
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal food or treats, animal cages, or animal feces (poop)
- After touching garbage
- If your hands are visibly dirty or greasy

## What type of soap should you use?



You can use bar soap or liquid soap to wash your hands. Many public places provide liquid soap because it's easier and cleaner to share with others. Studies have not found any added health benefit from using soaps containing antibacterial ingredients when compared with plain soap. Both are equally effective in getting rid of germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



## How does handwashing help fight antibiotic resistance?

Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria resist the effects of an antibiotic – that is, germs are not killed and they continue to grow. Sickneses caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria can be harder to treat. Simply using antibiotics creates resistance, so avoiding infections in the first place reduces the amount of antibiotics that have to be used and reduces the likelihood that resistance will develop during treatment. Handwashing helps prevent many sicknesses, meaning less use of antibiotics.

Studies have shown that handwashing can prevent

**1 in 3**

diarrhea-related sicknesses and

**1 in 5**

respiratory infections, such as a cold or the flu.

For more information and a video demonstration of how to wash your hands, visit the CDC handwashing website:

[www.cdc.gov/handwashing](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing)



## CHECKLIST FOR RETAILERS

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***As outlined in Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, non-essential retailers may operate up to 25% of the total listed occupancy. In addition, non-essential retailers may operate through pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the customer's doorstep. Shopping malls may operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the shopping mall, but shopping mall food court dining areas, play areas, and interactive displays and settings must remain closed.***

*In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all retailers choosing to operate in Texas. Retailers may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Retailers should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Retailers should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards.*

### Health protocols for serving your customers:

- Retailers are encouraged to consider dedicating a certain period of time each day for only at-risk customers<sup>1</sup> or deliver purchased goods to vehicles to reduce the need for at-risk customers to enter the store.
- If practical, monitor what items customers touch to clean or disinfect when the customer leaves the retail establishment.
- Contactless payment is encouraged. Where not available, contact should be minimized.

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<sup>1</sup> At-risk customers are those who are 65 or older, especially those with chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; chronic heart disease; severe obesity; diabetes; chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; liver disease; or weakened immune system

# MINIMUM STANDARD HEALTH PROTOCOLS



## RETAILERS: Page 2 of 3

### Health protocols for your retail employees:

- Train all employees on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
  - Screen employees before coming into the retailer:
    - Send home any employee who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
      - Cough
      - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
      - Chills
      - Repeated shaking with chills
      - Muscle pain
      - Headache
      - Sore throat
      - Loss of taste or smell
      - Diarrhea
      - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
      - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
  - Do not allow employees with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
    - In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*; or
    - In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
    - If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
  - Do not allow an employee with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).
- Have employees wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the retailer.



## RETAILERS: Page 3 of 3

- Have employees maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- If an employer provides a meal for employees, employers are recommended to have the meal individually packed for each employee.
- Consistent with the actions taken by many retailers across the state, consider having all employees wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, employees should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

### Health protocols for your retail facilities:

- Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
- Disinfect any items that come into contact with customers.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and customers.
- Place readily visible signage at the retailer to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.



## CHECKLIST FOR RETAIL CUSTOMERS

Page 1 of 1

*In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all retail customers. These protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization.*

### Health protocols for retail customers:

- Self-screen before going into a retailer for any of the following, and do not go into a retailer with any of the following symptoms:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Diarrhea
  - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a retailer and after any interaction with employees, other customers, or items in the retailer.
- Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals not within the same household. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- Wash or sanitize hands after the payment process.
- Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) when entering a retailer, or when within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of the individual's household. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.



## CHECKLIST FOR RESTAURANTS

Page 1 of 3

***As outlined in Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, restaurants may operate for dine-in service up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the restaurant, and may not offer valet services except for vehicles with placards or plates for disabled parking. As used in executive order GA-18, this applies only to restaurants that are not required to post the 51% sign required by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Restaurants may continue to provide to-go or delivery services.***

*In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all restaurants choosing to operate in Texas. Restaurants may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Restaurants should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Restaurants should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards.*

### Health protocols for serving your customers:

- Parties maintain at least 6 feet distance apart from other parties at all times, including while waiting to be seated in the restaurant.
- Make a hand sanitizing station available upon entry to the restaurant.
- No tables of more than 6 people.
- Dining:
  - Do not leave condiments, silverware, flatware, glassware, or other traditional table top items on an unoccupied table
  - Provide condiments only upon request, and in single use (non-reusable) portions.
  - Use disposable menus (new for each patron)
  - If a buffet is offered, restaurant employees serve the food to customers.
- Contactless payment is encouraged. Where not available, contact should be minimized.

# MINIMUM STANDARD HEALTH PROTOCOLS



## RESTAURANTS: Page 2 of 3

### Health protocols for your employees:

- Train all employees on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
  - Screen employees before coming into the restaurant:
    - Send home any employee who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
      - Cough
      - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
      - Chills
      - Repeated shaking with chills
      - Muscle pain
      - Headache
      - Sore throat
      - Loss of taste or smell
      - Diarrhea
      - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
      - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
  - Do not allow employees with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
    - In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*; or
    - In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
    - If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
  - Do not allow an employee with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).
- Have employees wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the restaurant, and between interactions with customers.



## RESTAURANTS: Page 3 of 3

- Have employees maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced
- Consistent with the actions taken by many restaurants across the state, consider having all employees wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, employees should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

### Health protocols for your facilities:

- Consider having an employee manage and control access to the restaurant, including opening doors to prevent patrons from touching door handles.
- Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, and chairs.
- Regularly and frequently clean restrooms, and document the cleanings.
- Disinfect any items that come into contact with customers.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and customers.
- Place readily visible signage at the restaurant to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
- Clean and disinfect the area used for dining (table, etc.) after each group of customers depart, including the disinfecting of tables, chairs, stalls, and countertops.
- Clean and sanitize restaurants daily.





## CHECKLIST FOR RESTAURANT CUSTOMERS

Page 1 of 1

*In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all restaurant customers in Texas. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization.*

### Health protocols for restaurant customers:

- Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals not within the same party. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering when not sitting at the table, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- Self-screen before going into a restaurant for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Diarrhea
  - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a restaurant and after any interaction with employees, other customers, or items in the restaurant.
- No tables of more than 6 people.
- Customers should wash or sanitize their hands after the payment process.
- Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) when not at the table, or when within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of the individual's household. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.



## CHECKLIST FOR MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

Page 1 of 2

***As outlined in Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, museums and libraries may operate up to 25% of the total listed occupancy, and must close any components of the museum or library that have interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas. Local public museums and libraries may operate only if permitted by the local government.***

*In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all museums and libraries choosing to operate in Texas. Museums and libraries may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Museums and libraries should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Museums and libraries should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards.*

### Health protocols for your employees:

- Train all employees on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- Screen employees before coming into the museum or library:
  - Send home any employee who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:

- Cough	- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	- Loss of taste or smell
- Chills	- Diarrhea
- Repeated shaking with chills	- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Muscle pain	- Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- Headache	
  - Do not allow employees with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
    - In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to



## MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES: Page 2 of 2

work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*; or

- In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
- If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

- Do not allow an employee with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).
- Have employees wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the museum or library, and between interactions with visitors.
- Have employees maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced
- If an employer provides a meal for employees, employers are recommended to have the meal individually packed for each employee.
- Consistent with the actions taken by many businesses across the state, consider having all employees wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, employees should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

### Health protocols for your facilities:

- Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
- Disinfect any items that come into contact with visitors.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and visitors.
- Place readily visible signage at the facility to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.

# MINIMUM STANDARD HEALTH PROTOCOLS



## CHECKLIST FOR ALL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY VISITORS Page 1 of 1

*In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all museum and library visitors in Texas. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization.*

### Health protocols for museum and library visitors:

- Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals not attending the museum or library together. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- Self-screen before going into a museum or library for any of the following, new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Diarrhea
  - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.
  - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a museum or library and after any interaction with employees, other visitors, or items in the museum or library.
- Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) when entering a museum or library, or when within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of the individual's household. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.



## CHECKLIST FOR OUTDOOR SPORTS PARTICIPANTS

Page 1 of 1

***As outlined in Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, individuals may engage in outdoor sports, provided that the sports do not include contact with other participants, and no more than four participants play the sport at any time. Please note, under executive order GA-18, individuals shall avoid public swimming pools.***

*In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all individuals engaging in outdoor sports in Texas. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization.*

### Health protocols for outdoor sports participants:

- Self-screen before playing in an outdoor sport for any of the following, new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Diarrhea
  - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- Special consideration for golf courses:
  - Clean and sanitize golf carts and push carts between uses.
  - Except for members of the same household, no more than one individual per golf cart.
  - Clean and disinfect driving range golf balls between use.
  - Ensure separation of at least 6 feet between golfers on the driving range.



## CHECKLIST FOR CHURCHES/PLACES OF WORSHIP

Page 1 of 3

*The Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Governor have been providing joint guidance regarding the effect of executive orders on religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and places of worship. Below is an excerpt from the joint guidance for executive order GA-18, issued on April 27, 2020. The same minimum standard health protocols would apply to funeral services, burials, and memorials.*

*In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all churches, congregations, and places of worship in Texas. Churches, congregations, and places of worship may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans. The same minimum standard health protocols would apply to funeral services, burials, and memorials.*

*We know now that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Churches, congregations, and places of worship should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Churches, congregations, and places of worship should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards.*

### Health protocols for serving your attendees:

- Strongly encourage the at-risk population<sup>2</sup> to watch or participate in the service remotely.
- Designate an area inside the facility reserved for the at-risk population, or offer a service for at-risk population attendees only.
- Ensure proper spacing between attendees:
  - Keep at least two empty seats (or six feet separation) between parties in any row, except as follows:
    - Two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.

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<sup>2</sup> At-risk population are those who are 65 or older, especially those with chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; chronic heart disease; severe obesity; diabetes; chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; liver disease; or weakened immune system



## CHURCHES/PLACES OF WORSHIP: Page 2 of 3

- Two individuals who are not members of the same household but who are attending together can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
- Alternate rows between attendees (every other row left empty).

### Health protocols for your employees and volunteers:

- Train all employees and volunteers on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- Screen employees and volunteers before coming into the church, congregation, or place of worship:
  - Send home any employee or volunteer who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
    - Cough
    - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - Chills
    - Repeated shaking with chills
    - Muscle pain
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - Loss of taste or smell
    - Diarrhea
    - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
    - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- Do not allow employees or volunteers with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
  - In the case of an employee or volunteer who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*; or
  - In the case of an employee or volunteer who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
  - If the employee or volunteer has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.



## CHURCHES/PLACES OF WORSHIP: Page 3 of 3

- Do not allow an employee or volunteer with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).
- Have employees or volunteers wash or sanitize their hands upon entering.
- Have employees or volunteers maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, then other measures including face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- Consistent with the actions taken by many churches, congregations, and places of worship across the state, consider having employees, volunteers, and attendees wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, they should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

### Health protocols for your facilities:

- Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
- Disinfect seats between services.
- Disinfect any items that come into contact with attendees.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available.
- Place readily visible signage to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
- If a church or place of worship provides meals for employees, volunteers, or attendees, they are recommended to have the meals individually packed for each employee, volunteer, or attendee.
- Maintain rigorous sanitation practices like disinfection, handwashing, and cleanliness when preparing or serving anything edible.





## CHECKLIST FOR SINGLE-PERSON OFFICES

Page 1 of 2

***As outlined in Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, services provided by an individual working alone in an office may operate.***

*In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all single-person offices. Employers may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Businesses should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Businesses should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards.*

### Health protocols for single-person offices:

- Be trained on all appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- Self-screen before coming into the office:
  - Do not go into the office with new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
    - Cough
    - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - Chills
    - Repeated shaking with chills
    - Muscle pain
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - Loss of taste or smell
    - Diarrhea
    - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
    - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- Do not allow employees with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:

In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*; or



## SINGLE-PERSON OFFICES: Page 2 of 2

- In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
  - If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
- Do not allow an employee with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).
- Wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the business.
- Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- Consistent with the actions taken by many businesses across the state, consider wearing a cloth face covering (over the nose and mouth) upon entering the premises and when using common areas, including elevators, restrooms, break rooms, or stairs. If available, you should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

### Health protocols for your facilities:

- Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
- Disinfect any items that come into contact with customers.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and customers.
- Place readily visible signage at the business to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.