

# Mandatory Masking in Alberta

## FAQs for Businesses (December 11, 2020)

### Who is mandating that masks be worn?

The Government of Alberta is now requiring masks be worn in public places. This is mandated through Public Health Order 41-2020 (see the list of Orders at <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-orders-and-legislation.aspx>). The Town of Taber also has enacted Bylaw 22-2020, Temporary Mandatory Facial Coverings, which is in effect for as long as the Taber Region is under “enhanced status” (see the bylaw at [www.taber.ca/bylaws](http://www.taber.ca/bylaws)).

### With the Provincial Government enacting mandatory masks throughout the Province, is the Town of Taber Temporary Mandatory Facial Coverings Bylaw still in effect?

Yes. The Province’s mask mandate takes precedence over the Town’s bylaw, but the Town’s bylaw is still in effect as long as the Taber region remains in “enhanced” status due to active COVID-19 cases. Where the Province does not outline mandatory masks (ie: public transportation such as taxis or busses), the Town’s bylaw will still apply and is subject to enforcement.

### What happens if I have a customer who refuses to wear a mask?

The Province’s Public Health Order is clear: masks are **mandatory**. This rule applies to:

- Indoor public places
- Places of worship
- Indoor workplaces, except:
  - When working alone in an office or a safely distanced cubicle or a barrier is in place
  - Farm operations (exempt)

This workplace requirement:

- Applies to ALL employees, customers, visitors, delivery personnel and contractors
- Includes all workplace locations where masks won’t pose a safety risk
- Does not change current student mask requirements in schools

As businesses are private property, owners have the right to offer alternative means of service or refuse service to anyone who does not comply with these measures and any additional measures you as a business owner put forth (provided that person is not exempt by the Health Order and/or protected under the *Alberta Human Rights Act*).

Someone who is not following the mandatory health measures set out by the Province are subject to enforcement including fines and prosecution. You can report those breaking Provincial mandates online at <https://ephisahs.microsoftcrmpoortals.com/create-case/> or by calling AHS health inspectors at 1-833-415-9179 (wait times may be high, online is recommended).

You can also contact the Taber Police Service at their non-emergency line at 403-223-8991 if someone refuses to comply or becomes harassing to employees and yourself.

### **Do I have to provide face coverings for my customers?**

You are not required to provide face coverings for customers. Citizens should be providing their own face coverings, and preferably using ones that are recommended by the Government of Alberta. See recommended masks at [www.alberta.ca/masks](http://www.alberta.ca/masks)

### **How do I enforce this mandate? Do I have to have someone monitoring that customers wear masks?**

As the Public Health Order states, masks must be worn by employees and customers alike unless otherwise noted by the Health Order or exemptions noted below. So someone refusing to wear a mask in your place of business is in direct contravention of the Public Health Order of the Government of Alberta and are subject to penalties including fines and prosecution. The responsibility is on citizens to ensure they are complying with the Health Order.

We have signage available on [www.taber.ca/covid19](http://www.taber.ca/covid19) that businesses are welcome to use to remind customers about mandatory masking. It is your choice if you would like someone to monitor customers as they enter your business, but you are not required to do so.

### **How do I know if someone is exempt from wearing a mask?**

The Province has outlined the following exemptions on [www.alberta.ca/masks](http://www.alberta.ca/masks) Please check regularly for any changes:

- When you are only with people from your own household
- If you need assistance placing, using or removing a face mask
- If you are unable to wear a facemask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation
- When consuming food or drink
- If engaging in physical exercise
- When providing or receiving care or assistance where a facemask would hinder that caregiving or assistance
- When alone at a workstation separated by at least 2 metres from other people
- When working in farm operations
- If you are the subject of a workplace hazard assessment in which it is determined that your safety will be at risk if you wear a mask while working
- If you are separated by every other person by a physical barrier that prevents droplet transmission
- If you need to temporarily remove your facemask while in a public place for an emergency or medical purpose or to:
  - receive a service that requires the temporary removal of a facemask
  - establish your identity

Because the Province's Health Order takes precedence over Town bylaws, any exemptions that may be outlined by the Province will be the only exemptions allowed for the duration of the Public Health Order on masks in Alberta.

**Can I call the Taber Police if I see someone not wearing a face covering?**

The Taber Police Service is able to provide enforcement by calling their non-emergency line at 403-223-8991. Our officers will respond appropriately in the circumstance. They have many tools at their disposal including enforcement as a last resort.

**I have other questions not answered here. Who can I talk to?**

If you email us at [covid19@taber.ca](mailto:covid19@taber.ca) or [taberchamber@gmail.com](mailto:taberchamber@gmail.com) we will do our best to answer your question or to direct you to a resource for help.