



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health

HEALTHCARE FACILITY NOTICE

**EMERGENCY ORDER: FACE COVERING MANDATE
FOR ALL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES LICENSED
BY THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: All Health Care Facilities Licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health

FROM: LDH Office of Public Health
Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH, State Health Officer

RE: State Health Officer Order – Face Covering Mandate

DATE: April 27, 2021

Handwritten signature of Joseph Kanter, M.D.

EFFECTIVE DATES: This Emergency Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect from 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, until further notice from the State Health Officer.

RATIONALE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY:

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States, effective January 27, 2020. Pursuant to the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, R.S. 29:760, *et seq.*, a state of public health emergency resulting from the outbreak of “coronavirus disease 2019” (“COVID-19”) was declared to exist in the entire State of Louisiana by Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020.

While progress has been made in Louisiana, the COVID-19 pandemic/public health emergency in Louisiana continues. Measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public. The measures ordered herein are in line with the best guidance from the CDC.


The State Health Officer expressly finds that the measures ordered herein are necessary to help control and prevent further spread of COVID-19, a communicable, contagious, and infectious disease that represent a serious and imminent threat to the public health.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me by L.R.S. 40:1 *et seq.*, particularly La. R.S. 40:4(A)(13) and La. R.S. 40:5(A)(2), I, Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH, State Health Officer, do hereby issue the following emergency order:

- (1) **All administrative staff, medical staff, support staff, employees (direct, contract or otherwise), volunteers, patients, residents, clients, and visitors at any health care facility licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health are hereby mandated and directed to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth at all times while inside the facilities, except for the following situations:**
 - a. **A patient undergoing treatment or procedure(s) which prevents the wearing of a face covering is not required to wear a face covering;**
 - b. **Any patient, resident, client, or visitor younger than eight years old is not required to wear a face covering. However, all children between the ages of two and seven are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering.**
 - c. **A patient and his/her approved visitors in a private room are not required to wear a face covering while in the private room.**
 - d. **Any individual with a medical condition that prevents the wearing of a face covering is not required to wear a face covering.**
 - e. **Any individual who is consuming food or drinks in designated food consumption areas.**
 - f. **Any individual seeking to communicate with someone who has or is suspected of having a communication disorder is not required to wear a face covering.**
 - g. **Any individual temporarily removing his or her face covering for identification or communication purposes.**

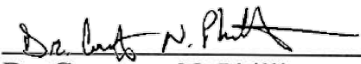
- (2) **This State Health Officer Order replaces and supersedes any previously issued State Health Officer orders/notices regarding mask or face coverings.**

Signed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on April 27, 2021.



Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH
State Health Officer

Concurrence:

 April 27, 2021

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips DATE
LDH Secretary