

City of Springfield

Public Health Advisory and Recommendation:

Face Covering

Health Commissioner Helen Caulton-Harris has issued the following advisory and Recommendation pertaining to the COVID-19 State of Emergency:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health has issued Guidance to implement Governor Baker's Order that prohibits gatherings of over 10 people.

The Governor's Order exempted certain activities and the DPH Guidance on implementation clarified the all exempt activities must follow social distancing protocols by remaining at least six feet apart, continue to wash hands, utilize hand sanitizer and follow proper respiratory etiquette.

However, even if a person is involved in an exempt activity, is following social distance as well as hygienic protocols, and does not show symptoms, that person may still be able to spread COVID-19.

A face covering can help prevent you from spreading COVID-19 to other people, so you should wear one when you are in locations where people are in transit, such as grocery and convenient stores, bus and train stations, pharmacies and medical facilities, pet supply stores, and hardware shops or if you otherwise leave your home to participate in an exempt activity.

A face covering can include anything that covers your nose and mouth, including dust masks, scarves and bandanas. Health care worker masks (surgical mask, N-95 or similar) must be preserved for people in the health care system.

Wearing a face covering should not give an individual a false sense of security. You should continue to follow all CDC and DPH protocols.

April 3, 2020