



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS REGARDING NEW PROVISIONS TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

### **What businesses are required to comply with the new facial coverings requirement?**

*All* businesses (including not-for-profit entities and medical offices) and commercial entities (including warehouses) and the operators of any venues or events directly open to the public in the City of Laredo.

### **Does this provision include churches and places of worship?**

No, churches and places of worship are not required to abide by this provision. However it is strongly encouraged that they consider doing so.

### **Why did the City Council adopt this requirement?**

Based on CDC findings, a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. The recent surge in cases is largely driven by certain types of activities that involve people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. Based on the recommendation of its Health Authority, Dr. Victor Trevino, the Laredo City Council adopted this requirement based on studies which definitively show that for the individual, mask provides up to a ½ reduction in the risk of COVID-19 transmission, and at the community level, it can save an extraordinary number of lives.

## How can a business or commercial establishment be compliant with the new orders that require face coverings to be worn?

(1) You must adopt a Health and Safety Policy. At a minimum, the policy must require all employees, customers, clients, and visitors to wear a face covering at all times). A sample Health and Safety Policy that is minimally compliant with this section can be obtained at [https://www.cityoflaredo.com/assets/corona-06-19-20\\_COVID-19\\_Health\\_and\\_Safety\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.cityoflaredo.com/assets/corona-06-19-20_COVID-19_Health_and_Safety_Policy.pdf). The Health and Safety Policy required to be developed and implement by this Emergency Order may also include implementation of other mitigating measures designed to control and reduce the transmission of COVID-19 such as temperature checks or health screenings.

(2) All entities subject to this Emergency Order must post the Health and Safety Policy at or near each entrance (on each entry door if feasible) to the premises in a manner sufficient to provide clear notice to employees, customers, and visitors at least of the face covering requirement.

(3) You must notify your employees, customers, clients, and visitors of the policy by posting the official City of of Laredo signage in a conspicuous locations (at the entrance to the business, in employee breakrooms, at job sites, and at points of sale). **TEMPLATE SIGNS FOR PRINT**  
**HERE:** [https://www.cityoflaredo.com/assets/Business-corona\\_no\\_mask\\_no\\_entry\\_flyer\\_for\\_businesses.pdf](https://www.cityoflaredo.com/assets/Business-corona_no_mask_no_entry_flyer_for_businesses.pdf)

## What should be done if a customer, client, or visitor refuses to comply with the face covering/mask requirement?

If a business has made every effort to comply with the order and the customer still refuses to wear a face covering, the business should not put their employees in a situation that creates additional conflict. The business should call the police to enforce a criminal trespass situation.

## **Are there any exceptions to the requirement that customers visitors, or clients need to wear a face covering?**

Yes. There are specific exceptions that include:

- (1) When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk due to a medical conditions, mental health condition, or disability;
- (2) Briefly for the purpose of consuming food or drink;
- (3) If at a restaurant, while seated at a table;
- (4) While in a building or activity that requires security, surveillance, or screening; or
- (5) While exercising at a gym or exercise facility if a medical condition exists and the person provides written documentation in advance to the facility.

## **What are the penalties for not requiring customer to wear a face covering or mask?**

Violation by any business or commercial establishment of Section 9 of the Emergency Order pertaining to the adoption of a Health & Safety Policy and mask requirement is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$1,000 per offense. In addition to enforcement through citation and fine, the City of Laredo may further exercise its authority to enforce compliance through the revocation or suspension of the Certificate of Occupancy.

## **What are the guidelines for customer logs that are now required to be kept for all patrons of bingos and maquinitas?**

Bingo Halls and Amusement Redemption Establishments (Maquinitas) are required to help the Laredo Health Department track and trace customers who may have been exposed to COVID-19. They are now required to maintain an activity log of contact information for all inside or sit-down customers and employees, including the dates and times they were present in the business and the location.

To protect the privacy of customers, the logs shall be maintained only for a twenty-one (21) day period.