



Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings & Masks

This document is designed only as guidance and general reference for Ohio manufacturers. For specific questions relating exclusively to your operations, please work with your internal experts and state/local public health authorities.

Overview

In late April 2020, Gov. Mike DeWine rolled out his plans to gradually re-open Ohio's business community. Under the re-opening plan, manufacturers that are not already operating may re-open Monday, May 4. The governor provided [these five safety protocols](#) for all businesses, as well as [additional safety requirements specific to manufacturing](#). (These apply to all Ohio manufacturers, regardless of whether they were open during the stay-at-home order.)

Under Ohio's re-opening plan, the use of face coverings by employees is mandatory, except in the following cases:

- Facial coverings in the work setting are prohibited by law or regulation;
- Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
- Facial coverings are not advisable for health reasons;
- Facial coverings are in violation of the business's documented safety policies;
- Facial coverings are not required when the employee works alone in an assigned work area;
- There is a functional (practical) reason for an employee not to wear a facial covering in the workplace.

Businesses must provide written justification, upon request explaining why an employee is not required to wear a facial covering in the workplace. At a minimum, facial coverings (masks) should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.

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Read [Ohio's extended stay-at-home order](#), which includes safety protocols under the administration's re-opening plan.

For specific information on face coverings, see the Ohio Department of Health's [FAQs on cloth masks/face coverings in the workplace](#).

For more on Ohio's re-opening plan, visit the [Responsible Restart Ohio](#) website.

Guidance Resources

- [OMA's April 29 webinar](#).
- Ohio Department of Health's [FAQs on cloth masks/face coverings in the workplace](#).
- Ohio Department of Health's [guidance on face coverings](#).
- CDC on [homemade cloth face coverings](#).
- CDC's [questions and answers on face coverings](#).
- CDC's [interim guidance for conserving and extending filtering facepiece respirator supply in non-health care sectors](#).