



Monroe County Health Department

Monroe County, Indiana

Health Department	Futures Family Planning Clinic	Public Health Clinic
119 W. 7th Street (812) 349-2543	119 W. 7th Street (812) 349-7343	333 E. Miller Drive (812) 353-3244

PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATION UPDATED 11-5-2020 (with Amendment to Paragraph 10) PURSUANT TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW, INCLUDING INDIANA CODE § 16-20-1 et seq.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the recent increase of new cases nationwide with a trend towards cases in a younger population, Monroe County's increasing and dynamic population, and to ensure that physical distancing and preventive measures vital to the mitigation of the pandemic remain in place, I hereby order as follows, **effective upon adoption Thursday, November 5, 2020:**

1. Unless an exception as stated in Paragraph 2, below, applies, ALL individuals must wear a face shield, face covering, or mask (collectively referred to, hereinafter, as "face covering") over their nose and mouth when in an indoor place other than their own home or the home of an immediate family member, or when outdoors in a situation where adequate physical distancing of at least 6 feet is not possible (including outdoor public gatherings). *While a face shield is made of a harder, plastic-like material, an acceptable face covering or mask under this Order means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material that completely covers the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face.* . Persons unable to pay for a face covering should contact the Monroe County Health Department, the Office of Emergency Management, or the Office of the Monroe County Commissioners and one will be supplied at no cost. **This face covering requirement generally applies in all situations below, unless specifically and explicitly exempted below.**
2. This requirement does not apply to the following exceptions provided they are factually and legitimately applicable to an individual:
 - a. Children who are two years of age or younger.
 - b. Individuals who are hearing or speaking impaired and for whom a face covering is an obstacle to communication.
 - c. Individuals who are unable to wear a face covering for a documented physical, medical, or health-related reason.
 - d. Individuals in a hospital, doctor's office, dentist's office, or other health care facility, in circumstances where wearing a face covering would be an impediment to receiving proper care, as designated by the healthcare provider.
 - e. Individuals who are alone in an indoor space, such as in an office, or in a work-space and are physically distanced from all other co-workers. When unable to physically distance from others, a face covering is required.
 - f. Individuals who are traveling in personal vehicles.





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- g. Individuals for whom wearing a face covering would present a risk to their safety while at work, as determined by local, state, or federal workplace safety regulations.
 - h. Individuals who are incarcerated.
 - i. Individuals who are engaged in a form of indoor exercise that is incompatible with wearing a face covering, including swimming.
 - j. Individuals who are seated at a restaurant, bar, or other establishment that serves food and/or drink. However, individuals entering and exiting restaurants or bars, or congregating in waiting areas or common areas of restaurants or bars (including bathrooms), must wear face coverings.
 - k. Individuals who are engaged in outdoor physical exercise, including running, jogging, walking, bicycling, or swimming, if in groups of less than 25.
 - l. Bona fide emergency situations in which a person lacks the time or the means to put on a face covering before entering an indoor or outdoor public space. Individuals who are outdoors and are maintaining at least 6 feet of distance from others who are not part of their household.
3. All businesses and public accommodations which are open to the public must ensure that all customers and/or visitors are complying with the face covering and physical-distancing requirements of Paragraph 1 above. Businesses or public accommodations that fail to enforce compliance with face covering and physical-distancing requirements in Paragraph 1 are subject to enforcement action, *up to and including closure*.
4. When individuals must interact with one another outside their own home, including at work, and at essential and non-essential businesses, they should observe the following precautions:
 - a. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals who are not part of their own household;
 - b. Wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are not available;
 - c. Cover all coughs and sneezes with a tissue that can then be disposed;
 - d. Disinfect frequently used surfaces;
 - e. Avoid sharing food, drinks, and utensils;
 - f. Refrain from sharing office supplies and equipment (such as pens, staplers, and computer keyboards);
 - g. Frequently clean communal office equipment (such as printers and copiers);
 - h. Increase ventilation of indoor spaces, by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning, as much as possible;





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- i. Hold all necessary meetings by telephone or videoconference whenever possible; and
 - j. Refrain from shaking hands or engaging in other physical contact with the hands or face of another person.
5. For academic and extra-curricular activities, all K-12 schools in Monroe County should follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), and the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), even if the requirements differ from those contained herein. Nothing, however, precludes schools from adopting rules or regulations consistent with these requirements. Childcare, pre-school, and pre-K programs should follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
5. The following businesses shall follow any and all Orders issued by the Governor of Indiana and shall also follow the requirements in Paragraph 1. The requirements in Paragraph 1 apply, despite the fact that they are more restrictive than requirements established by the Governor's Orders:
 - a. Shopping malls and other retail stores, including liquor stores and convenience stores;
 - b. Restaurants, bars, nightclubs (see also requirements in Paragraph 9);
 - c. Personal services businesses, such as salons, barber shops, nail salons, spas, massage businesses, and tattoo parlors, except for those who are receiving a service where a mask is incompatible with the service and only while receiving the service;
 - d. All religious services, indoors and outdoors, except for those who are formally presenting and are physically distanced from others (no face-covering required for those presenters);
 - e. Campgrounds and youth summer day camps;
 - f. Community swimming pools;
 - g. Gyms, fitness centers, yoga & dance studios, and martial arts studios;
 - h. Golf course facilities and golf club houses;
 - i. Sports venues and raceway events;
 - j. Cultural, entertainment, and tourism sites, including zoos, museums, and parks; and
 - k. Conventions & conferences.





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6. Beginning July 31, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. (noon), gathering sizes, applicable to all non-commercial events, including private gatherings or those held at a personal residence (including fraternities and sororities located in the City of Bloomington and on or off the Indiana University campus), shall be no more than fifty (50) people. Any person or organization may apply to the Monroe County Health Department for an exemption from the gathering size limit. The application for the exemption is attached to this Regulation as Exhibit A. The Health Department will only approve an exemption if the applicant demonstrates that the gathering allows for appropriate physical distancing and use of face coverings. **Face covering and physical distancing requirements in Paragraph 1 apply to these gatherings.**
7. Beginning July 31, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. (noon), gathering sizes, applicable to all commercial gatherings or those held at venues that are, in the normal course of business, offered to the general public for rent or use, shall be no more than one hundred (100) people, if the gathering is held inside or one hundred fifty (150) people if the gathering is held outside. Any person or organization may apply to the Monroe County Health Department for an exemption from the gathering size limit. The application for the exemption is attached to this Regulation as Exhibit A. The Health Department will only approve an exemption if the applicant demonstrates that the gathering allows for appropriate physical distancing and use of face coverings. **Face covering and physical distancing requirements in Paragraph 1 apply to these gatherings.**
8. Beginning July 31, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. (noon), restaurants, bars and nightclubs must have and require table-top seating for all patrons and must require patrons to remain seated at tables, and may not have bar-top service. They must follow the following requirements:
 - a. They are encouraged to use outdoor seating as much as possible.
 - b. Groups of patrons must be spaced at least six (6) feet apart.
 - c. Party size must be limited to ten (10) people or fewer at each table.
 - d. Air ventilation should be increased to maximum capacity, or at least six (6) air changes per hour.
9. This Regulation applies on property owned by Ivy Tech and Indiana University, as long as adopted by their required authorities, but does not apply on other State-owned





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property. Ivy Tech and Indiana University have the legal authority to impose even stricter requirements than are imposed here.

10. Violations of this Regulation are subject to penalties as provided by the Monroe County Code, including but not limited to Chapters 305 and 115, and may be enforced by any local or state law enforcement agency or any agent authorized by the Monroe County Board of Health, Health Department, or Monroe County Board of Commissioners. Nothing in this Regulation gives individual residents the authority to intimidate or harass individuals who do not voluntarily comply or who are found out of compliance with this Regulation.
11. It is Monroe County's intent to educate and gain voluntary compliance by all persons in Monroe County. Notices of Ordinance Violations, with penalties as allowed by Monroe County Code, should be issued only as a last resort and if voluntary compliance may not be achieved. A Class C Ordinance Violation is subject to a fine of up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00); however, it is recommended that an individual, per-person fine for a single violation of this Regulation be imposed in the amount of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). It is recommended that fines for group violations be levied in a higher amount.
12. This Regulation supplements any existing regulations and shall be in effect until rescinded.

Celinda Kay Leach, RN
Chair of the Monroe County Health Board of Directors

