

Kootenai County mask mandate now in place

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An emergency order mandating the use of face coverings throughout Kootenai County was issued Thursday by the Panhandle Health District board. It went into effect immediately.

The health district order states:

That every person in Kootenai County is required to wear a face covering that completely covers the person's nose and mouth when the person is in a public place and physical distancing of 6 feet from others cannot be maintained.

"Public place" shall mean any place open to all members of the public without specific invitation, including but not necessarily limited to, retail business establishments, government offices, medical, educational, arts and recreational institutions, public transportation, including taxi cabs and ridesharing vehicles, outdoor public areas, including but not limited to public parks, trails, streets, sidewalks, lines for entry, exit, or service, when a distance of at least six feet cannot be maintained from any non-household member.

There are several exemptions included in the Panhandle Health District order.

[Read the official order here.](#)

What does this mean at NIC?

NIC's mask policy is similar to the countywide order, but **NIC requires face coverings AND 6 feet of physical distancing while inside any NIC building throughout the region.**

Under Panhandle Health District's countywide order, the beach at NIC is considered a public place and masks are required when 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained.