

DRAFT-For Committee Discussion



Clerk of the House
and staff bios_2021.

All individuals over two years of age entering legislative spaces in the Capitol Complex, including the State House, 1 Baldwin St., 2 Aiken Ave., and 4 Aiken Ave., and other locations being used for legislative purposes (including study committees, task forces, and panels composed of at least one member of the General Assembly) shall wear a facial covering (mask), regardless of vaccination status. The facial covering shall completely cover the individual's nose and mouth. Individuals who do not comply with this policy will be asked to leave, and may be escorted from the location by the Sergeant-at-Arms or Capitol Police if noncompliance continues. **The Sgt-at-Arms and/or Capitol Police is authorized to escort member of committee, or a Chair may choose to not to recognize a member of the committee until that member is in compliance with the facial covering policy.**

Individuals with a medical condition that prevents the safe use of a facial covering, and individuals seeking a religious exemption from this policy shall notify the Sergeant-at-Arms of the need for such exemption. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall require a note from a medical professional indicating the need medical exemption, or documentation indicating the reason for request of religious exemption, before granting any appropriate exemptions. **When an individual is granted a facial covering exemption, either for medical or religious purposes, proof of a negative COVID test taken within 72 hours shall be required for entrance into legislative space. Those who cannot provide proof of a recent negative COVID test shall be permitted to participate in proceedings remotely, except when otherwise prohibited by Rule.**

Facial coverings may only be removed while eating in the cafeteria, eating in a private office, or when an individual is alone or with other members of their department in a non-public area of the State House and all present in the room agree that they are comfortable with others removing their facial coverings. In all instances when facial coverings are not being worn, effort should be made to ensure appropriate distance is maintained between individuals, and to replace facial coverings as soon as practicable.

This policy shall take effect 24 hours after its approval by the Joint Rules Committee, and shall remain in effect until all counties in Vermont are identified as being in a location with "low or moderate transmission risk" as defined by the CDC or until otherwise provided by the Joint Rules Committee. Notice of the requirement to wear a facial covering shall be conspicuous, appear on the legislative webpage, and be posted by the Sgt-at-Arms as soon as practicable in the affected spaces.