FAQs for Face Coverings Outdoors

Do I need to wear a face covering while outdoors?

Yes, in most cases. As Executive Order 20-30 states, “face coverings are not required for people who can easily, continuously, and measurably maintain at least six (6) feet of distance from other people.” When you’re going outside, bring a face covering. Keep a 6-feet distance away from other people or groups, whether you’re wearing a face covering or not. If you cannot maintain a 6-foot distance, wear a face covering. A face covering is not required when you can easily, continuously, and measurably maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other people.

Do my children need to wear face coverings outdoors?

In some instances. Children under the age of 2 years should not wear face coverings. Executive Order 20-30 states that face coverings are not required of “young children who may not be able to effectively wear a mask.” Children who can wear a face covering safely should do so. However, as is the case with adults, a face covering is not required when children can easily, continuously, and measurably maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other people.

Do I need to wear a face covering at Rhode Island beaches?

While at the beach this summer, it is recommended that you wear a face covering in any crowded area – for example, the bathroom, concessions, or parking lots during busy times. However, face coverings are not required when you are easily, continuously, and measurably at least 6 feet from others. Face coverings should not be worn while swimming or playing in the water.

Do I need to wear a face covering while swimming?

No. Face coverings should not be worn while swimming or playing in the water.

Do I need to wear a face covering while visiting Rhode Island parks?

Yes, in most cases. A face covering needs to be worn in all public places where you are close to other people and cannot easily, continuously, and measurably maintain 6 feet of distance from people in other groups. The clearest advice is to keep 6 feet away from other people or groups, whether you’re wearing a face covering or not. If you cannot maintain a 6-foot distance, wear a face covering. For example, if you’re hiking and no one else is on the trail, you don’t need to wear your face covering, but if you’re beginning a hike and on a crowded trailhead, you should wear a face covering. Similarly, if you’re having a picnic with your family, you don’t need to wear a face covering, but if you’re waiting in a
line at a food truck or concession stand where other people are within 6 feet of you, you should wear a face covering.

**Am I required to wear face coverings while jogging, bicycling, or exercising outdoors?**

Yes, masks are required while exercising outdoors if you cannot maintain 6 feet of distance from other people or groups. As always, check with your doctor before starting an exercise program. While exercising in a mask, moderate your expectations. You may need to go a little slower while you get used to the mask. Stop or take a break more often.

Also, if children are engaged in sports outdoors, face masks are suggested but may not always be appropriate given a child’s health, stage of development, or activity. Adults should monitor youth who wear face coverings while engaged in sports activities and encourage youth to take more frequent breaks.

**Are there exceptions for Rhode Islanders with developmental disabilities or medical conditions?**

Yes. Executive Order 20-30 states: “Face coverings shall not be required of those who are developmentally unable to comply” or “those whose health would be damaged” by wearing a face covering.