

Snapshot of Non-Medical Mask Recommendations Across Canadian Provinces and Territories

This document contains a brief summary scan of non-medical mask recommendations from each of the Canadian provinces and territories. It is important to note that each P/T's information may vary depending on the epidemiological context and the outbreak situation in that jurisdiction. This document was prepared by the Public Health Physicians of Canada, the national specialty society for Public Health and Preventive Medicine Specialists and public health physicians.

Table 1. Comparison of Non-Medical Mask Recommendations Across Canadian Provinces and Territories

Province/Territory	Non-Medical Mask Recommendation
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory at Canadian airports, railway stations and trains, and ships, where 2-meter distancing between individuals can not be maintained, or when requested by companies • Recommended in the community where a 2-meter distance from others can not be maintained
British Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory on public transit • Recommended when sick and unable to distance from others at home, when caring for someone who is sick, or to protect others in public enclosed spaces where safe distancing can not be achieved.
Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory masking in some municipalities • Recommended in indoor facilities where it is difficult to maintain a 2-meter distance from others
Saskatchewan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not mandatory • Recommended in indoor facilities where it is difficult to maintain a 2-meter distance from others
Manitoba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not mandatory • Recommended in indoor facilities where it is difficult to maintain a 2-meter distance from others
Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory masking in many municipalities • Recommended in indoor facilities where it is difficult to maintain a 2-meter distance from others
Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory in enclosed or partially enclosed public spaces¹
New Brunswick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory in public spaces where physical distancing is not possible
Nova Scotia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory in all public indoor spaces²
PEI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not mandatory • Recommended in indoor facilities where it is difficult to maintain a 2-meter distance from others
Newfoundland & Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory in all public indoor spaces³ • Recommended in indoor facilities where it is difficult to maintain a 2-meter distance from others
Nunavut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not mandatory

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider in indoor public facilities where it is difficult to maintain a 2-meter distance from others
Northwest Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not mandatory Recommended where a physical distance of 2-meters from others can not be maintained
Yukon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not mandatory Recommended where a physical distance of 2-meters from others can not be maintained

¹ Mandatory in: a retail business, service company, professional’s private office, place where municipal or government services are offered, personal care business, shopping mall, place of worship, place of cultural or entertainment activities or services are offered, rental room or other venue used to host events, place where sports or recreation activities are practiced, restaurant or bar, common area, educational institution, train or bus station, river station, metro station, airport. For full list, including exemptions, see [here](#).

² Public places include: retail businesses, shopping centers, personal service businesses, restaurants and liquor licensed establishments, places of worship, places for cultural or entertainment activities and services, places for sport and recreation, places for events, common areas of tourist accommodations, office buildings, and universities or colleges, and trains stations, bus stations, ferry terminals, and airports. For a list of all included public spaces, and exemptions see [here](#).

³ Public places include: public transit, retail businesses, service companies; common areas of office buildings, common areas of apartment buildings/condominiums, personal care business, shopping centres, places of worship, funeral homes, theatre/performing arts venue, movie cinemas, fitness and sports centres, restaurants, common areas of tourist establishments, post-secondary educational institutions. For a list of all included public spaces, and exemptions see [here](#).

Table 2. Examples of exemption lists.

Province/Territory	Exemptions
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children under 2 years old Breathing difficulties unrelated to COVID During identity verification or security checkpoints if required by staff During flight while eating, drinking, taking medications, or when their safety could be endangered
Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children under 12 years old (but masks are recommended for children between 2 and 11) Individuals with particular medical conditions⁴
New Brunswick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children under 2 years of age Children of any age at licensed early education and childcare facilities The Chief Medical Officer may exempt other classes of persons unable to wear a mask or face covering
Nova Scotia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children under 2 years of age Children 2-4 when caregiver cannot get them to wear a mask Anyone with a valid medical reason Anyone reasonably accommodated under the Human Rights Act Anyone unable to remove the mask without assistance People in a jury room or courtroom

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performer or officiant who is performing activities that require vocalization at a faith gathering, wedding, funeral, social event, or arts and culture event • People in a room for events attending a private business meeting with no more than 50 people
Newfoundland & Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children under 5 years of age • People with physical mental health exemptions • During treatments, services, or physical activity • Showing identification • Workplaces • Seated areas where 2-meter distance can be maintained

⁴ Medical conditions include: people who are unable to put on or take off the mask themselves due to a physical disability; people with facial deformities; people who, due to cognitive impairment, intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, an addiction problem or a severe mental health problem, are unable to understand the requirement or of whom wearing a mask or face covering causes significant disorganization or distress; people who have a severe skin condition on the face or ears that is significantly aggravated by wearing a mask or face covering; people receiving treatment, a service, or engaging in a physical activity or other activity that requires it to be removed; temporary removal for identification purposes; people who work or practice their profession in a place accessible to the public (these people remain subject to specific rules applicable to them in terms of health and safety at work); people who are seated and respect distancing provided in the following places: classrooms of an educational institution, in a place where activities or services of a cultural or entertainment nature are offered, in a restaurant, food court or bar, in another enclosed or partially enclosed place accessible to the public where people can be seated.