

## PANAMA CITY BEACH COVID-19 BUSINESS REGULATIONS FAQ

### Who must wear a mask?

Employees and contractors of any enclosed business in the City, while working indoors, must wear a cloth face covering unless that employee is exempt (see below).

This does not include employees while working outside.

### What employees do not have to wear a mask?

1. Employees working in a part of a business which is not generally open to the public who are able to maintain 6 feet of distance between coworkers do not have to wear a mask.

Example: Workers in an office setting who maintain distancing need not wear a mask. When those workers congregate within six feet for a meeting, they must wear masks.

**Note:** This exception does not apply to employees who prepare or serve food and drinks.

2. An individual with a disability as recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act may request an accommodation of the mask requirement. Guidance on this subject can be found at: <https://www.adasoutheast.org/ada/publications/legal/ada-and-face-mask-policies.php>

3. First responders when engaged in their employment.

4. A person communicating with a person who is hearing impaired.

**Note:** Working behind a Plexiglas screen is not an authorized exception to the Ordinance's mask requirement.

### What signage do I have to provide?

The City has designed and distributed digital copies of signage required to be posted by each business subject to the Ordinance. The signage, in PDF format, shall be posted on the City's website and on its Facebook page.

Businesses shall be found in compliance with this requirement if:

1. It posts the signage designed by the City, or substantially similar to that design, conspicuously at all public entry points.
2. The signage shall be at a minimum of size of 8 1/2 " x 11" to ensure that it is easily seen and read by the public.

## **What rules have been placed on waiting areas?**

Patrons waiting for service, to be seated at a table, or to check out from a **restaurant, bar, retail business, or indoor amusement** must be spaced at least six feet from other groups.

A business shall be found in compliance with this requirement if it does the following:

1. Posts signage in waiting and check-out areas informing patrons of the 6 foot distance requirement.
2. Clearly marks spaces available indicating where groups may separately congregate.
3. Makes good faith efforts to ensure that patrons adhere to these requirements.

## **What must happen if a business employee tests positive?**

If a current employee of a **restaurant, bar, retail business, or indoor amusement** informs the business that he or she has been positively diagnosed with COVID-19, the business must notify the public, cease operations, and disinfect the business's interior and high-touch surfaces.

A business shall be found in compliance with this requirement if it does the following after a supervisory employee or owner of the business gains actual knowledge that an employee actively on the employer's payroll has received a positive test for COVID-19:

1. Within two (2) hours the business notifies the public in the following manner:
  - a. Posting on all social media platforms for which the business has an active account.
  - b. Notifying the City's Public Information Officer at [dward@pcbgov.com](mailto:dward@pcbgov.com)
  - c. Posting signage on all public all points of access to the building.
  - d. The Notice must sufficiently inform the public that the business has temporarily ceased operation to undergo disinfectant services and will reopen when that service is completed.
2. Within six (6) hours: the business ceases operation and undergoes a disinfectant cleaning of the business's interior.
  - a. The following list of vendors are non-exclusively approved by the City for the provision of services required by Section 5(B) of Ordinance 1533-E. The City offers no endorsement or warranty of these services :
    - i. SERVPRO of Bay County
    - ii. Daystar Cleaning and Restoration
    - iii. Jani-King
    - iv. 3P America
3. Provides a letter from a licensed disinfectant contractor certifying that the business has been disinfected in compliance with CDC and Florida Department of Health guidelines.

## **What businesses have limited capacity?**

**Restaurants, bars, retail businesses, or indoor amusements** must operate at no more than 50% of building capacity as determined by the Fire Inspector.

Businesses shall be found in compliance with this requirement if:

1. The total number of occupants of the business's interior is at or under the 50% indoor capacity number determined by the Fire Inspector.
2. Consistent with Executive Order 20-139, outdoor service at **Restaurants and Bars** shall be subject to "appropriate social distancing." Appropriate social distancing means:
  - a. Separation of groups by a minimum of six feet; or
  - b. Separation of groups by a full barrier, such as Plexiglas, between tables at closer distances which would effectively stop viral particle transmission between tables.

## **What are the penalties?**

This Ordinance may be enforced by members of the City's Police Department, Fire Department, or Code Enforcement Department. The Ordinance may be enforced against owners or supervisors at businesses in violation.

Any violation of the Ordinance is subject to tiered penalties.

1. First offense should result in a written warning and education by the City on the mask requirements. Violators without a mask will be provided one by the City.
2. Second Offense: \$250.00
3. Third and all subsequent offenses: \$500 or an order to cease operation for 24 hours.

## **How do I report violations of this Order?**

Violations should be reported to the City Hall at 850.233.5100