

Texas Department of Public Safety

Life Safety and Risk Management

Bulletin #20200615.00

June 15, 2020

The Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic

The Texas Department of Public Safety continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a reminder, DPS has adopted strategies to prevent office closures, minimize disruption to DPS operations, and minimize risk of spread to our families and the public we serve. There are five (5) essential practices and processes DPS employees must follow based on recommendations from CDC Critical Infrastructure Workers guidelines, FEMA and OSHA guidelines. Refer to previous [Bulletin](#).

1. Pre-Screening for temperature and symptom/exposure questions
2. PPE, including Face Masks
3. Social Distancing (maintain a safe distance of 6 feet whenever possible)
4. Hand washing/sanitizing
5. Disinfecting work areas

Face Masks in the Workplace

DPS Employees are still required to wear a face mask while in the workplace in common areas including hallways, breakrooms, bathrooms, reception areas, conference rooms, driver license offices, fleet operations, store and warehouse, common and shared workspaces, etc. Employees should not congregate together without a facemask. Face masks are NOT required when in your own cubicle or office, as long as there is no other individual in the same office or cubicle within 6 feet.

Wearing a Mask in the Summer

With summer temperatures in Texas commonly reaching over 100 degrees, heat exposure/exhaustion can present some challenges:

- If your mask gets damp or wet
 - You are recommended to have a spare face mask with you that can be swapped out during the day if your mask gets damp or wet. You should keep your spare mask in a Ziploc bag or container to keep it clean throughout the day. Damp or wet masks should be placed in a paper bag or open container to air dry. Do not place a wet mask in a sealed bag or container where mold could grow.
- If you believe you are experiencing dehydration, heat exposure/exhaustion
 - Symptoms of dehydration, heat exposure, or exhaustion include: dizziness, feeling faint, fast heart rate, headache, shortness of breath, excessive sweating or clammy skin, blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramping and weakness.

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- If this occurs, you need to remove the mask right away, get out of the heat, maintain a safe distance from others and seek medical attention.
- How do I clean my cloth face mask?
Cloth face masks should be cleaned after each use (daily) according to [CDC Guidelines](#).