

What you need to know – Dubuque COVID-19 Inspections

With COVID-19 cases on the rise in the City of Dubuque and across Iowa, the City has partnered with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals and Alcohol and Beverages Division, and stepped up enforcement of the following:

- [The City of Dubuque Mask Ordinance](#)
- [The Governor's Social Distancing Proclamation](#)
- [Alcohol & Beverages Division COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Submission*](#)

WARNING: Businesses in possession of an alcohol license/permit MUST submit a preparedness plan and the associated checklist, available through the link, to the Alcohol & Beverages Division. Those establishments who have not submitted a plan risk fines and potential loss of their liquor license

These policies in tandem are designed to limit the spread of COVID-19 and help bring us back to a transmission level that keeps the Community safe.

Compliance & Penalties Local Mask Ordinance

Compliance Key Provisions:

- Any person inside any indoor public setting must wear a face mask (except for the below noted exceptions)
- Not required to wear a mask when:
 - o While traveling in a personal vehicle alone or with household members.
 - o While a person is alone or in the presence of only household members.
 - o While outside, if keeping six (6) feet away from others is possible
 - o While exercising at moderate or high intensity such as jogging or biking.
 - o While seated at a food establishment in the process of eating or drinking.
 - o While obtaining a service that would require temporary removal of the person's face covering.
 - o When federal or state law prohibits wearing a face covering or requires the removal of the face covering.
- The following persons are exempt from wearing a face covering:
 - o Persons younger than (two) 2 years of age
 - o Anyone who has difficulty breathing or is on oxygen therapy or a ventilator
 - o Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance
 - o Anyone who has been told by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional not to wear face coverings
 - o Anyone actively engaged in a public safety role, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel, although a face covering should be worn if possible
- A business that is open to the public must post signs at each entrance instructing customers of the legal obligation to wear a face covering as required by this section while inside the business.
- No business that is open to the public may provide service to a customer or allow a customer to enter its premises unless the customer is wearing a face covering as required by this section.

Penalties:

The local mask ordinance has been crafted to give local authorities flexibility in dealing with complaints. Currently the following are possible outcomes from a citation:

- Initial complaints are typically followed up on by an officer meeting with you (the business owner) to discuss ways to improve social distancing and mask wearing within your establishment. These meetings are meant to be collaborative and give owners the opportunity to fix any compliance issues
- First Citation: A business may be fined \$10 for a first citation and is equivalent to a parking ticket.
- Second Citation+: The city has reserved the right to impose a municipal infraction for repeated violations or refusal to comply with the order. **Only one infraction has been issued with a cost of \$750 to the business owner.**

Governor's Social Distancing Proclamation

Compliance:

- Establishments must ensure at least six feet of physical distance between each group or person dining/drinking alone. Seating at booths closer than six feet may satisfy this requirement if the booths are separated by a barrier of sufficient height to fully separate seated customers. All patrons must have a seat at a table or bar, and an establishment must limit patrons from congregating together closer than six feet.
- Establishments should also implement reasonable measures for the circumstances of each business to ensure social distancing of employees and customers, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals and the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- In addition to the stated requirements in the Governor's Proclamation, the ABD has requested submission of a preparedness plan, [filled out through this link](#), to document compliance for the department.

In addition to the local mask ordinance, local law enforcement has been tasked with administering compliance with the Governor's Social Distancing Proclamation.

Penalties:

If you are a bar or an establishment that serves alcohol as a main source of income, violations of the Governor's order can be reported to the Alcohol and Beverages Division for review. Penalties for ABD infractions are as follows:

- First offense: \$1000
- Second offense: Possible temporary revocation of your liquor license (typically 7 days)
- **Third offense +: Possible temporary revocation of your liquor license, and potential permanent revocation of your license**

If you are not a bar or establishment that serves alcohol as a main source of income, violations are reported to the Department of Inspections & Appeals. Penalties for D&I Infractions are as follows:

- First verified offense, a warning letter is issued
- Second verified offense may result in a seven-day suspension of your establishment's food license
- **Third verified offense may result in revocation of food license**
- All evidence and decision will be from Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals Bureau Chief