

COVID-19 - New regulations in Malta

Source: Government of Malta

October 2020

Masks are mandatory indoors and outdoors in all public spaces.

Any person shall, outside his residence, both when going to an indoor place and outdoors, wear a medical or cloth mask or visor covering the nose, mouth and chin of the person. The mandatory use of medical or cloth masks or visors shall not apply to private homes or private vehicles.

From Saturday 24 October, anyone found not wearing a mask will have to pay a fine of €100.

The following people are exempt from wearing a mask:

- Children under three years
- Persons with severe cognitive, physical, mental or respiratory impairments who have difficulties tolerating a mask, as certified by a licensed medical practitioner. Such individuals shall at all times carry the relevant medical certificate exempting them from wearing a mask.

The temporary removal of the mask in the following situations is permitted:

- Children attending kindergarten, while in the classroom
- High intensity physical activity
- When speaking or providing assistance to any individual who relies on lip reading to communicate
- During official public speaking, provided that a physical distance of at least two metres between individuals is maintained. However, delivery of lessons at school or university is not considered as official public speaking.
- While seated and eating at a restaurant or establishment where food is served, however when not eating or sitting, a mask must be worn
- To receive a facial or medical treatment
- To take medication
- For identification purposes, e.g. to show your face to staff at the airport
- While driving in your personal car

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It is now **legally mandatory** for all individuals to wear a face mask or visor whenever they leave their house, unless exempted as described in detail above. Where tolerated, a medical or cloth mask (or a mask together with a visor) is preferred to a visor alone. It is the responsibility of employers to provide appropriate masks and/or visors for their workers and to ensure that these are worn in an appropriate manner covering nose, mouth and chin.

In addition to the above legal requirements and as a result of ongoing evidence of the effectiveness of masks in decreasing the spread of COVID-19, public health authorities also strongly recommend that a face covering is worn in private homes or in private vehicles when you are in the company of persons who do not form part of your household, although this is not a mandatory requirement.