



# OREGON FIRE SERVICE CORONAVIRUS TASKFORCE

## Updated OR-OSHA Rules COVID-19 Bulletin 2022-3

The Oregon Fire Service Coronavirus Response Taskforce (OFSCRT) has worked throughout the pandemic to provide guidance for the Fire Service to consider from messaging provided by health organizations. The first priority is the health and safety of our first responders and the communities we serve. With the reduction of COVID-19 impacts to Oregon communities, the OFSCRT has reviewed the new updates regarding face coverings, physical distancing, and disinfecting protocols and produced a distilled guidance summary for the fire service to consider. Although the COVID-19 pandemic may still impact your agency in the future, we hope you enjoy some return to normalcy at this time. The OFSCRT will begin its transition to an on call, ad-hoc group given the changes in the guidance for the fire service and members of the public.

On March 14, 2022, Oregon OSHA released a memo addressing the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in All Oregon Workplaces with updates regarding masks, face coverings, and face shields. The Oregon Fire Service Coronavirus Response Taskforce (OFSCRT) has summarized these updates.

Requirements for face coverings as of March 14, 2022. The new memo and draft rules are very similar to previously adopted for those employers covered by exceptional risk settings, and significant changes to employers covered general workplaces settings - including providing facial coverings and allowing them to wear them if they chose to do so.

<b>Situation</b>	<b>Updated Guidance</b>
In Oregon workplaces generally	Not required, but allowed for employees who prefer to wear face coverings, such as those with underlying conditions or who are not comfortable without face covering. Face coverings have to be provided for those workers who choose to do so.
In the fire house	Not required, but allowed for employees who prefer to wear face coverings, such as those with underlying conditions or who are not comfortable without face covering. Face coverings have to be provided for those workers who choose to do so.

When delivering patient care	Procedural masks are required as part of standard universal precaution for patient care. However, if a COVID-19 infection is suspected, a N95 should be used. If PPE is depleted, a surgical/procedural mask is acceptable.
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Requirements for physical distancing as of March 14, 2022:

Situation	Updated Guidance
In Oregon workplaces generally	Not required
In the fire house	Not required
When delivering patient care	Not required, unless there is exceptional risk or a suspected COVID-19 infection.

Requirements for disinfecting as of March 14, 2022:

Situation	Updated Guidance
In Oregon workplaces generally	Not required
In the fire house	Not required
When delivering patient care	Required as part of standard universal precautions for infection control, including in any areas of the fire house set aside for patient care. Also, required in exceptional risk.

This information was distilled and summarized Oregon OSHA's new memo. Workplace memos can be found on Oregon OSHA's [website](#). For those individuals or fire service agencies providing patient care, OHA's [investigative guidelines for COVID-19](#) refer to "[Clinical Care and Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control for COVID-19](#)" for healthcare workers.