

Face Coverings Policy

Last Reviewed 19/07/2021

Following the lift of restrictions on 19 July across England, we will observe new government guidance and be following all their recommendations to keep our volunteers and guests safe and comfortable.

- **Volunteers** will need to wear face coverings when volunteering with FoodCycle, – as recommended by the government for enclosed spaces, unless face mask exempt.
- **Guests** will need to wear face coverings when entering any FoodCycle project venues, and will be required to wear a face covering at all times unless seated at a table to eat – as recommended by the government for enclosed spaces, unless face mask exempt.
- **Staff** will need to wear face coverings when visiting project as recommended by the government for enclosed spaces, unless face mask exempt.

Why have FoodCycle made this change?

We at FoodCycle are all about building our communities and supporting others. Face coverings help us protect others, such as our guests and fellow volunteers. Evidence now shows that wearing of face coverings reduces the chance of transmission to other people.

Although social distancing and hand washing are the most important and effective things we can all do to prevent the spread of coronavirus, the wearing of face coverings adds to that protection. Wearing of face coverings ensures that we are all doing our part to protect others around us. As things open up after 19th July, many people may feel anxious about attending settings with restriction relaxing, this policy is support everyone who accesses a FoodCycle service and ensures that we keep everyone safe.

Who will provide the face coverings / masks?

At every project FoodCycle will make available disposable face masks for volunteers and guests to use. Should you prefer to use your own face covering that is fine, but it must cover your face and nose. You can in true FoodCycle fashion repurpose material and make your own.

How many times can you wear a disposable mask?

You should only wear disposable face coverings once.

How clean do your hands need to be before touching your mask?

Before you put the mask on, wash your hands. Best practice is to take the mask off from the straps rather than the front.

How do you prevent your glasses from steaming up?

Top Tip! Submerge your glasses in soapy water and then let them dry by themselves, creating a thin antifog layer on the lenses. Face visors for kitchens will be available but face coverings must be worn underneath.

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How often should you wash a reusable face covering?

Treat your face covering the same way as you treat your socks or underpants! It's good to have a spare mask so you can have one being washed and wear the other one the next day.

Who shouldn't wear one?

There are exemptions for some people with health conditions or disabilities and people who assist them, if you think that is you, please contact your regional manager on projects@foodcycle.org.uk. For example, if you are volunteering with someone who relies on lip-reading, you are not required to wear a mask. Asthma UK advises people with asthma to try a few different face coverings to see if they can find one that works for them.

If a guest tells you that they are face covering exempt, please provide them with a Face Mask Exempt Badge which will be available at your projects. Visors are also available should a guest wish to wear one, these should be sanitised before and after use.

Individual Risk Assessments

Volunteers who are exempt from wearing a face covering will need to tell their project leader at the project. They can provide you with a facemask exempt badge to wear whilst volunteering, or you can print off your own on the government website. Please get in touch with project@foodcycle.org.uk if you are exempt from wearing a face covering and have any questions.

Do I have to adhere to other COVID-19 hygiene practices if I am wearing a face covering?

Yes! Although face coverings are additional help to tackle the spread of infection, hand washing, cleaning practices and maintaining social distance are still the best way to stop the spread. Face coverings do not replace these practices.

What do I do if a guest refuses to wear a facemask but is not exempt?

Explain that all guests and volunteers are expected to wear face coverings whilst in the building. If they do not wish to do this they will not be allowed inside, but can be given a take away meal. If they do not have a face covering, all projects have extras and can be offered them.