

What you need to know: COVID-19: Airline mask policy: North America

August 5, 2020

As part of their efforts to keep travelers and employees safe, almost all airlines around the world now require passengers to wear a face covering of some sort for the duration of a trip. However, there can be some differences between airlines. This report details what North American airlines currently require.

Canada

Airline	Seating adjustment
Air Canada ¹	All customers are required to wear cloth coverings or face masks over mouth and nose at check-in, boarding and during the flight. These do not need to be medical masks – any face covering, including a scarf or similar item is acceptable. Passengers must bring their own masks, which will be confirmed prior to boarding. Exemptions apply to children aged under 6 years or customers with a medical condition preventing mask wearing. For the latter group, a medical certificate or confirmation by an Air Canada Fitness to Fly form is required.
Air Transat ²	Passengers must wear a face covering at the airport and on board the plane.
WestJet	Transport Canada requires all travelers over 2 years old wear a face covering, which could be a non-medical face mask or a scarf. It must cover the mouth and nose. Passengers must bring their own mask and could be denied boarding without one.

Mexico

Airline	Mask policy
Aeromexico	Use of face masks is mandatory throughout the journey. Disposable medical face masks, of the type available from local pharmacies, are recommended. Reusable face masks must be multi-layered and made from an absorbent material (cotton), cover the nose and mouth, allow breathing with ease, and keep their shape after washing.
Interjet ³	The airline recommends passengers prepare a kit with facemasks, antibacterial gel and sanitizing wipes. It reminds travelers to wear a face mask at all times at the airport, during the flight and while disembarking.
Volaris ⁴	Use of face masks is obligatory for all customers during the entire travel process.

¹ [Air Canada](#), FAQs

² [Air Transat](#), Traveler Care

³ [Interjet](#), Travel safely with Interjet

⁴ [Volaris](#), New biosecurity measures

U.S.

Major network airlines

Airline	Mask policy
American Airlines ⁵	A face covering is required in the airport and during the flight, except for children under 2 years old. This can be a mask or any secured cloth like a scarf or bandana covering the nose and mouth.
Delta Air Lines ⁶	<p>Passengers must wear a face mask or appropriate cloth face covering over the nose and mouth throughout their trip. Plastic face shields may be used, but only in addition to a mask. Masks with exhaust valves are not approved.</p> <p>Customers with underlying conditions that prevent mask wearing are advised to seriously reconsider travel or should be prepared to complete a "Clearance to Fly" process prior to departure at the airport. Anyone requiring this exemption should arrive early, as the process can take one hour. Such exemptions only apply to flights operated by Delta and Delta Connection.</p> <p>Children under the age of 2 years or unaccompanied minors are exempt from the mask requirement.</p>
United Airlines ⁷	<p>All travelers must wear a face covering at the airport and during their entire flight unless eating or drinking. The airline encourages passengers to bring their own masks, although customer service agents are able to provide them. Children younger than 2 years are exempt. The airline makes no mention of medical exemptions.</p> <p>Anyone not wearing a mask may be turned away from a flight and could also lose their privileges on future United flights. Anyone not wearing a mask during the flight will face a security investigation on arrival.</p>

Low-cost carriers

Airline	Mask policy
Allegiant Air ⁸	<p>All passengers, except children under 2 years, are required to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth. Travelers with a medical condition preventing the use of a mask must provide documentation from a medical professional.</p> <p>Masks are provided by the airline in a complimentary health and safety kit. A mask is not required by passengers wearing face shields.</p>
Frontier	<p>Passengers must wear a face covering over the nose and mouth from check-in through to baggage reclaim.⁹ Only children under the age of 2 years are exempt. The airline even provides advice on how to make their own face masks.¹⁰</p>

⁵ [American Airlines](#), Travel requirements

⁶ [Delta Air Lines](#), Changes to our experience

⁷ [United Airlines](#), What to expect

⁸ [Allegiant](#)

⁹ [Frontier Airlines](#)

¹⁰ [Frontier Airlines](#), How to make a "no sew" face mask

Low-cost carriers (continued)

Airline	Mask policy
JetBlue	All travelers are required to wear a face covering (mask, scarf or bandana) over the mouth and nose throughout the journey from check-in through deplaning. It should be made of cloth, fit snugly against the side of the face, be secured with ties or ear loops, include multiple layers of fabric and allow for unrestricted breathing. Plastic face shields may also be worn, but these must be in addition to a face mask and not instead of. Young children are exempt.
Southwest ¹¹	Customers are required to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth and at all times. The only exception is for children under 2 years. The airline will not transport any customer unable to wear a mask, even if for verifiable medical reasons, to reduce the risk of asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19. Southwest will provide a mask for passengers who forget to bring one. Any well-secured cloth or mask is acceptable.
Spirit Airlines ¹²	Passengers must wear appropriate face coverings during the entire journey. The only exception is children under the age of 2 years. Anyone else unable to wear a face covering for any reason, including medical, will not be permitted to travel. Face coverings may only be removed while eating, drinking or taking medication. They must fit snugly, cover the nose and mouth, be secure under the chin and have at least two layers of fabric. Disposable, non-medical face masks are acceptable. Open-chin triangle bandanas, face coverings with valves or mesh material or face shields are not acceptable, although face shields may be worn with a face mask.

Other airlines

Airline	Mask policy
Alaska Airlines ¹³	The airline clearly states: No mask? No travel. No exceptions. This policy is effective from August 7. All travelers aged 2 years and older are required to wear a mask or face covering over nose and mouth. There are no other exceptions. Anyone unwilling or unable to wear a mask will not travel. The airline will issue a yellow card warning to anyone not wearing a mask on board. After landing, offenders will have all further travel with Alaska Airlines suspended, including any connecting or return flights in the current itinerary. Face coverings must be made from a cloth or other barrier material that prevents the discharge, release and expulsion of respiratory droplets. Face masks with direct exhaust valves are unacceptable. Anyone wearing a shield must wear a mask too.
Hawaiian Airlines ¹⁴	Passengers are required to wear a face mask or covering that effectively covers the mouth and nose from boarding the plane through to deplaning at the destination. Young children and passengers with a medical condition or disability preventing the use of a mask are exempt.

¹¹ [Southwest](#), FAQs

¹² [Spirit Airlines](#)

¹³ [Alaska Airlines](#), Masks and face coverings

¹⁴ [Hawaiian Airlines](#), Keeping You Safe

Note

The COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, and the situation is changing on almost an hourly basis. The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at August 5, 2020. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

Do you have questions or comments regarding this report? Please email mike.eggleton@bcdtravel.co.uk to share your thoughts.