



COUNTY OF BUCKS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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7/10/20

CLARIFICATION OF THE ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE PADOH REQUIRING FACEMASKS DURING ATHLETICS AND EXERCISING IN BUCKS COUNTY

Under Section 3, A., ii., the order states that individuals for whom wearing a mask while executing a task would create an unsafe condition as determined by local regulators. The Bucks County Health Department has determined that it may create an unsafe condition for any person to wear a mask while actively engaged in athletics and/or exercising. If anyone feels unsafe wearing a face mask while engaging in physical exercise, they are not required to do so, and do not have to show documentation that an exception applies.

Additionally, the “frequently asked questions” section from <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx> clearly indicates that “Athletes are not required to wear face coverings while actively engaged in workouts.”

This applies to anyone engaged in an athletic workout at any time (including health clubs), not just under competition. There is no physiologic difference between running on a treadmill and playing in a basketball game.

However, it is important to remember that masks must be worn at all times in a facility or otherwise, while not actively engaged in the workout.

David C. Damsker, MD, MPH

Director

Bucks County Health Department