

Austin Creative Reuse - Mask Policy and Reopening FAQs

We are continuing to follow recommendations from CDC and local public health authorities. Below are some answers to frequently asked questions.

Now that Gov. Abbott has removed the mask mandate, do I need to wear a mask while at ACR?

Yes, ACR will continue to put the safety and well-being of our community first. We continue to require masks by staff, volunteers and community members at all times while at our center. This includes while making donations, collecting volunteer projects, attending sidewalk sales and when the center reopens. Masks must be worn anytime you are on ACR property, whether inside the center or outdoors (for example, at sidewalk sales or while waiting in line).

Masks must fit snugly and fully cover your mouth and nose with no gaps.

Per CDC guidelines, only children under 2 years old are exempt from wearing a mask.

If you do not have a mask, we will be happy to provide one for you.

If the Governor has removed the mandate, why are you still enforcing it?

The CDC and local public health authorities continue to urge that masks be worn to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Wearing of face coverings, coupled with maintaining at least 6 feet of separation, are proven to reduce the transmission of the virus.

We are working to keep ACR staff, volunteers and our community safe while still providing a comfortable experience for all.

How long will you continue to enforce the mandatory mask policy?

We will continue to monitor conditions in the community and will follow recommendations of public health experts, including the CDC.

Currently, the rates of new COVID cases remain high both locally and statewide (8,000 new cases in Texas on 3/1/21), while the number of Texans who have received a vaccine remains under 10%.

As rates of infection and hospitalization decline and rates of vaccination increase, we'll evaluate all options for easing restrictions in accordance with public health guidelines.

The Governor said that masks are not required. You can't make me wear one.

ACR is a private organization, and we are able to set policies as we see fit in order to ensure the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and community.

Anyone who fails to properly wear a mask or comply with any of our other safety protocols cannot remain at our center.

What if I am unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition?

ACR is committed to making our center accessible to everyone. If you are unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition, you will not be able to remain at our center, but you are invited to make an appointment for a personal shopping experience over Zoom. Fees and time limits will be waived for those who cannot wear a mask to shop in our store due to a medical condition.

Will you be maintaining other COVID-19 safety precautions?

Yes, we have followed guidance from the CDC, local health agencies and public officials to update our policies, practices and procedures to ensure the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene and make appropriate accommodations for physical/social distancing.

Key measures include:

- Masks required
- Social distancing
- Temperature checks and health questions for anyone entering the center (staff, volunteers, visitors)
- Contact tracing
- Limited capacity
- Increased cleaning & disinfecting protocols
- Personal protection equipment for all staff and volunteers
- Sneeze shields installed at registers
- Traffic flow and limited points of entry/exits