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Is Wearing a Face Mask Illegal in Your State?

In the midst of COVID-19, many people are wearing a face mask. Have you checked to see if it’s illegal in your state? Eighteen states and Washington DC have laws that could be used to penalize people wearing masks. Two states, Georgia and Alabama, suspended enforcement of these laws during the pandemic.

Other states, like Minnesota, have not. Minnesota prohibits wearing a mask unless based on religious beliefs or if it is incidental to amusement, entertainment, protection from the weather or medical treatment. Otherwise, the individual is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Yet the mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul have ordered masks to be worn in certain public spaces, unless a person cannot “medically tolerate” it. Some who don’t want to wear a face mask could use their state law to refuse. Meanwhile, because of rioting and mask hygiene concerns, states may want to stick with the law.

