



# Staying Safe at the Airport: **Wearing a Mask**

An **ausm**<sup>®</sup> Social Narrative  
autism society of minnesota



Right now, a virus called COVID-19 has been making people sick. Another name for COVID-19 is the coronavirus.

This virus can pass from person to person through germs. These germs are in the tiny droplets that come from someone's mouth when they cough, sneeze, breathe, and talk.



I can help myself and other people stay safe from the virus by wearing a mask. Wearing a mask helps keep germs from spreading. I can still breathe with a mask on my face.





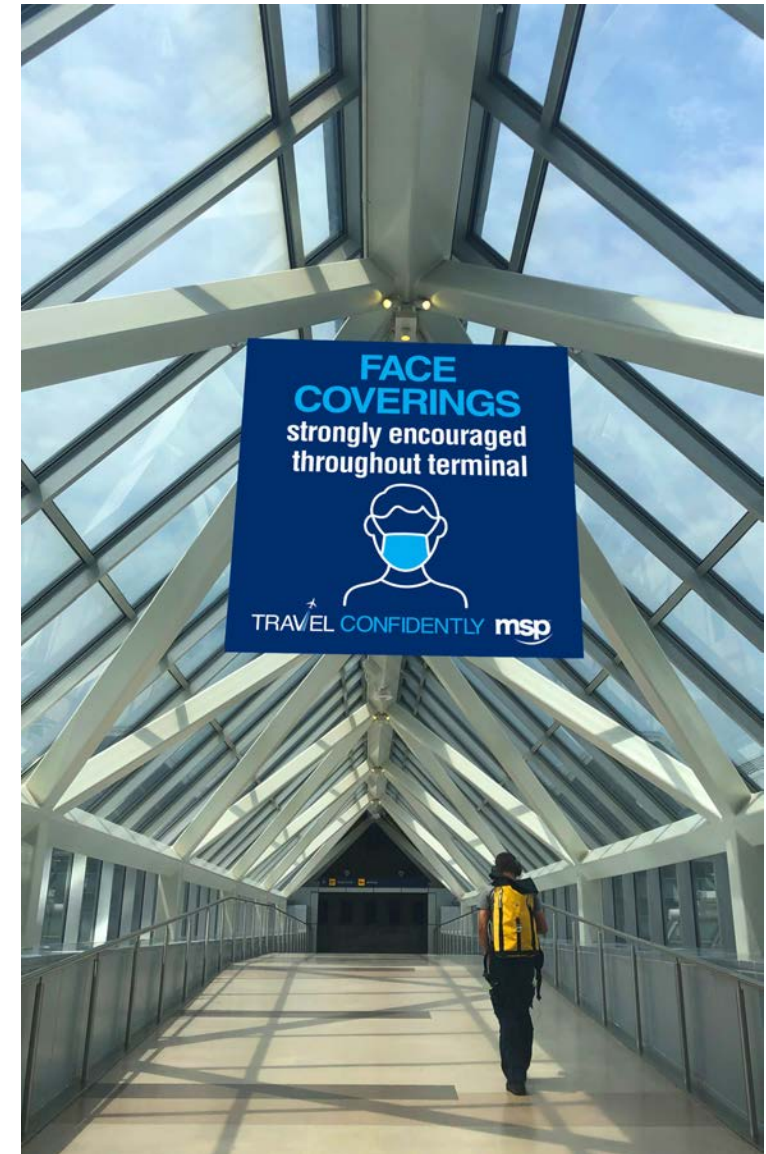


Most masks are made of paper or cloth.

It is important that my mask covers my mouth and nose, since those are the places where germs leave my body when I cough, sneeze, breathe, and talk.

My mask protects other people from my germs and protects me from other people's germs.

If I forgot my mask at home, MSP Airport has cloth face masks available at Traveler's Assistance booths at both terminals.



Wearing a mask may cause different sensations that make me feel uncomfortable.

I can practice wearing a mask at home to get used to what it feels like.

There are also different kinds of masks that I can try wearing so I am as safe and comfortable as possible.





Even when I wear a mask, it is still important for me to try to stay at least six feet away from other people, since germs typically do not travel that far.

There may be signs and other visual cues\* to help everyone stay at a safe distance from each other.

I can ask airport staff to help me or other people stay six feet apart as well.



\* Example: these blue dots are placed six feet apart.



Some security rules at the airport may be different due to COVID-19.

I can visit the website of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to learn what to expect when I go through security.



### Traveling During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Travelers are reminded to follow the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) travel and prevention guidance](#) regarding COVID-19. This includes practicing good hygiene, such as washing your hands regularly. In addition to those CDC recommendations, travelers are encouraged to wash their hands directly before and after completing the security screening process and that you place personal items such as wallets, keys or phone in your carry-on property that will be screened through the X-ray system. You may wear a [facemask during the screening process](#), but a TSA officer may ask the traveler to adjust the face covering at any point during the screening process.

### Medical Exemption for Hand Sanitizer



TSA is allowing one liquid hand sanitizer container, up to 12 ounces per passenger, in carry-on bags until further notice. Since these containers exceed the standard allowance typically permitted through a checkpoint, they will need to be screened separately. This will add some time to your checkpoint screening experience. Please keep in mind that all other liquids, gels and aerosols brought to a checkpoint continue to be limited to 3.4 ounces or 100 milliliters carried in a one quart-size bag. [Learn about TSA's special procedures for traveling with medication.](#)

This information is at <https://www.tsa.gov/coronavirus>.



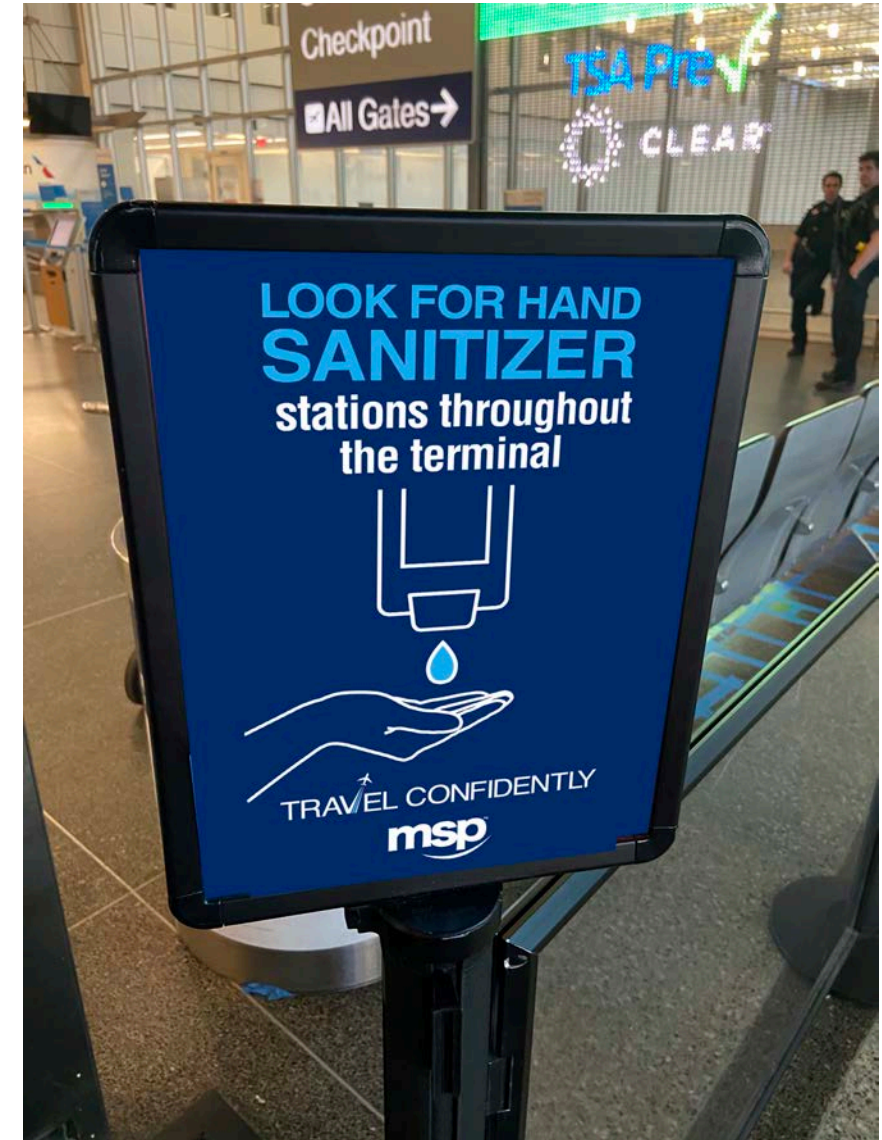


Airport staff is making sure that the airport is safe by regularly cleaning and disinfecting all public spaces.

It is also important for all airport staff and visitors to wash their hands with soap & water (for at least 20 seconds) and/or use hand sanitizer at least several times a day.

Hand sanitizer stations are located throughout Terminal 1 and Terminal 2.

Keeping my hands clean helps **everyone** stay safe by killing the germs that make people sick.





As we work through these unprecedented days altered by the COVID-19 pandemic, **AuSM is here for you.**

For more information and resources, visit  
<https://ausm.org/resources/covid-19-pandemic.html>.

You may also reach out to us via  
phone (651.647.1083) and e-mail ([info@ausm.org](mailto:info@ausm.org)).

