

## How to Shop Safely During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

COVID-19 continues to spread in our communities and there are risks any time [you gather](#) with others outside your home. As we begin a return to activities like shopping, we must continue to take steps to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

Take a few minutes to consider how to shop safely – protecting you, your fellow shoppers and the retail store staff who serve you. Support NYC’s retail stores but do it safely! If you are planning to visit retail stores, keep in mind these core four tips to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19:

- **Stay home if you do not feel well or are at higher risk of COVID-19 complications.** If you go out when you are sick, you risk getting others sick. If you have an underlying health condition, or are 65 or older, consider staying home to protect yourself.
- **Wear a [face covering](#) at all times.** Remember that you can spread COVID-19 even if you do not have symptoms. Wearing a face covering protects the people around you. **New York State requires face coverings for entry into retail stores for all who are over the age of 2 and can medically tolerate them.**
- **Keep your distance!** Stay at least 6 feet away from other shoppers and store staff, as much as possible. Reduce your time inside the store by looking online for items before you go, and order things for pick-up when you can.
- **Practice healthy hand hygiene.** Use hand sanitizer when entering the store, after touching products, and after leaving the store. Only touch products you intend to purchase, and use contactless payment methods whenever possible.

**To reduce the risk to their customers, retail stores will also be making changes. These include:**

- Screening staff for COVID-19 symptoms before their shift and sending them home if sick.
- Promoting physical distancing by using markers to keep people 6 feet apart, and by limiting the number of shoppers in the store at one time.
- Promoting healthy hand hygiene by placing hand sanitizers throughout the store in customer areas, including fitting rooms.
- Making sure both staff and customers wear face coverings.
- Increasing cleaning of frequently touched surfaces, such as payment devices, pick-up areas, restrooms and common areas.

For general information on COVID-19, including how to guard against stigma, visit [nyc.gov/health/coronavirus](https://nyc.gov/health/coronavirus). For real-time updates, text “COVID” to 692-692. Message and data rates may apply.

To find a testing site near you, visit [nyc.gov/covidtest](https://nyc.gov/covidtest) or call **311**.