



Commission on
Human Rights

Department of Health
and Mental Hygiene

Mayor's Office for
People with Disabilities

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FACE MASK EXEMPTION CARDS ARE FRAUDULENT, CANNOT BE USED IN NYC BUSINESSES

Statement from the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, NYC Health Department, and the NYC Commission on Human Rights

New York – “The City of New York has become aware of the distribution of cards appearing to bear the seal of the U.S. Department of Justice and stating that individuals are ‘exempt’ from the face covering requirement because of a disability. We want to be clear: These cards are fraudulent. Businesses cannot require them or rely on them, and New Yorkers cannot use them.

As New York City gradually reopens, New Yorkers need to look out for each other. Face coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19 help to keep our city safe. To protect their employees and other patrons, business owners can require face coverings for customers who are over age two and can medically tolerate them. If a customer has a disability and cannot wear a face covering, a business owner should engage in a cooperative dialogue about providing a reasonable accommodation for that person, in accordance with the NYC Human Rights Law.

More information on businesses' obligations to customers with disabilities is available at NYC.gov/HumanRights. If you have questions about how to comply with the NYC Human Rights Law, contact the Commission by calling 212-416-0197. Let's continue to work together to protect ourselves and our fellow New Yorkers from this virus.”