



## Local Health Department Guidance for Implementing COVID-19 Prevention Strategies

July 29, 2021

### Overall Context

Currently authorized vaccines in the United States are highly effective at protecting vaccinated people against symptomatic and severe COVID-19. The Delta variant (B.1.617.2) is widely circulating in the United States and is more contagious than other variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. A growing body of evidence suggests that, while fully vaccinated people are less likely to have symptomatic infection or develop severe disease, breakthrough infections are more common with the Delta variant and transmission to others is more likely with the Delta variant. Therefore, [CDC guidance](#) has been updated in light of emerging evidence to reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and protect vulnerable individuals.

The purpose of this document is to provide information about when face coverings and other prevention strategies are recommended. Local health jurisdictions maintain the responsibility to enact public health mitigation measures as is warranted for the control of communicable disease in their communities. The level of SARS-CoV-2 transmission and other guiding factors should be reassessed regularly, at least weekly is recommended, to ensure that the necessary layered prevention strategies are in place.

Factors that local health departments may consider in local decision-making around community mitigation measures include:

- COVID-19 [vaccination coverage](#) in the community
- Level of [community transmission of SARS-CoV-2](#) in the community
- Healthcare system capacity in the community
- Likelihood of individuals with immunocompromising conditions, including those taking immunosuppressive medications, in the setting
- Likelihood of large numbers of unvaccinated persons (i.e., children <12 years) in the setting
- Occurrence of an exposure or outbreak in the setting

### Definitions

For the purposes of this guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19  $\geq 2$  weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or  $\geq 2$  weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson [J&J]/Janssen); there is currently no post-vaccination time limit on fully vaccinated status. Unvaccinated people refers to individuals of all ages, including children, that have not completed a full vaccination series, or are within <2 weeks of completion of a vaccination series.

### Executive Order

Per the Governor's Executive Order ([2021-386](#), 6/11/2021), universal compliance with face coverings is required for both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated persons who are not otherwise exempt in:

- Public transit and transportation hubs (masks required for all persons 2 years of age or older in accordance with [President Biden's Executive Order](#) and [CDC's public health order](#))
- Healthcare settings
- Long term care settings



## **Additional recommendations for implementation of COVID-19 prevention strategies**

### Communities with Substantial or High Community Transmission (orange or red)

- All individuals (including fully vaccinated individuals) 2 years of age or older should wear a mask in public indoor settings, except where otherwise required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.
- Persons who are not fully immunized should continue to follow [CDC prevention measures](#), including wearing a face covering in public outdoor settings, maintaining physical distancing of 6 feet or more, and avoiding crowded and poorly ventilated spaces.
- Communities experiencing high SARS-CoV-2 transmission should consider [additional strategies](#) to reduce spread.

### Communities with Low or Moderate Community Transmission (yellow or green)

- Persons who are not fully immunized should continue to follow [CDC prevention measures](#), including wearing a face covering in public indoor and outdoor settings, maintaining physical distancing of 6 feet or more, and avoiding crowded and poorly ventilated spaces.
- Determining vaccination status among patrons or visitors in public or retail settings is frequently not feasible. As such, local health authorities and other entities should consider recommending universal use of face coverings for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in indoor settings where risk of SARS-CoV-2 is increased, particularly where it is likely that unvaccinated persons may be present and physical distancing is not possible. This includes settings such as:
  - Correctional facilities
  - Homeless shelters
  - Non-healthcare congregate living
  - Indoor gathering places
  - Indoor retail establishments
  - Indoor music, sports, and entertainment venues