



# COVID-19

## May mask mandate amendment

### Fact sheet

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Effective May 15, the Governor amended the statewide mask order to largely align with updated CDC guidance. The mandate extension has the following requirements.

Certain individuals age 11 and older must wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth in the following settings:

- Preschool through grade 12 schools (including extracurricular activities) and child care centers and services; however, fully vaccinated individuals, including vaccinated children age 16-18, in a classroom, cohort, or other group of children may remove masks where the teacher(s), caregiver(s), or other staff whose primary responsibility is education or childcare have provided proof of fully completed vaccination to their employer.
- Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated staff of Colorado Division of Motor Vehicle offices.
- Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated residents, staff, and visitors to congregate care facilities, including nursing facilities, assisted living residences, intermediate care facilities, and group homes; except in situations where removal is authorized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
- Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated residents, staff, and visitors to prisons.
- Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated residents, staff, and visitors to jails.
- Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated personnel in emergency medical and other healthcare settings (including hospitals, ambulance service centers, urgent care centers, non-ambulatory surgical structures, clinics, doctors' offices, and non-urgent care medical structures).

### Frequently asked questions

#### Can businesses still require employees or patrons to wear masks?

Yes. It is advised to keep a mask with you and wear it when asked out of respect. We want to be courteous, nice to our neighbors, and inspire confidence in public health.

#### What should unvaccinated people do?

Unvaccinated people should wear a mask around people who don't live with them and get vaccinated as soon as possible to protect themselves. Coloradans can find a vaccination clinic at: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine/where-you-can-get-vaccinated>

### **Will people who are incarcerated be required to wear masks?**

Unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated residents, staff, and visitors to prisons and jails must wear masks.

### **Will masks be required in school settings?**

School districts set their own policies, but we have state baseline requirements. Teachers and students age 11 and older must continue to wear masks for the final few weeks of the school year. Though not required, masks are encouraged for children age 2-10.

Fully vaccinated individuals, including children eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, in a classroom, cohort, or other group of children may remove masks where the teacher(s), caregiver(s), or other staff whose primary responsibility is education or childcare have provided proof of fully completed vaccination to their employer. This will be up to the districts.

### **Do we expect more people will get vaccinated so they can stop wearing a mask?**

We hope so. Vaccinations are the most effective way to protect yourself from COVID-19 and its variants, and vaccinations are the key to ending the crisis caused by the pandemic. The sooner more Coloradans are vaccinated, the sooner we can all get back to doing the things we enjoy.

### **Can vaccinated people still wear masks?**

Yes. Some Coloradans may choose to be more cautious. Every Coloradan should feel comfortable making the right choices for themselves and weigh their own comfort and risk.

### **How can a business or facility check to see if people entering the premises are vaccinated?**

Customers may voluntarily show proof of vaccination when entering a business or facility.

### **What counts as proof of vaccination?**

Customers may show the vaccination card they received at their vaccine appointment, a picture of their vaccination card on their cell phone, or a copy of their immunization records.

**What if a customer claims to be vaccinated but does not show proof of vaccination?**

Some businesses may require customers to wear masks if they do not show proof of vaccination, even if they claim to be vaccinated.

**What if someone shows a counterfeit vaccination card?**

A [recent communication](#) from the FBI reminded people that the unauthorized use of an official government agency's seal (such as HHS or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)) is a crime, and may be punishable under Title 18 United States Code, Section 1017, and other applicable laws.

**Will people still need to wear masks on public transportation?**

Yes. Federal law says that you must wear a mask on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States, and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. This is true for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.