

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19: UPDATED MASK MANDATE FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

**Masks are now required in all indoor public places in Santa Barbara County.
Some exceptions will apply – see Santa Barbara County Health Officer Order 2021-10.3**

Effective Friday, August 6, 2021, in Santa Barbara County, everyone 2 years of age and older must* wear a mask in all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and public and private businesses, regardless of their vaccination status. They must also continue to wear a mask on all public transit and transit hubs, at all health care settings, correctional facilities, shelters and cooling centers, and schools and day care facilities.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW MASKING HEALTH ORDER:

- Community transmission of COVID-19 has increased in Santa Barbara County. The risk for COVID-19 exposure and infection will continue until more people are vaccinated. It is important for everyone to help slow the spread of the virus by wearing masks indoors.
- In Santa Barbara County, everyone 2 years of age and older must wear a mask in all indoor public places, whether they have been vaccinated or not.
 - o If you are fully vaccinated, wearing a mask indoors gives you extra protection from getting infected and it protects other unvaccinated people.
 - o If you aren't fully vaccinated, your mask is one of the most powerful tools you have to protect yourself and other unvaccinated people. This is especially true when you are in an indoor or crowded outdoor space.
- Real world data continues to show that people who are fully vaccinated are well protected from serious illness and death from COVID-19, including the Delta variant. But it appears that a small number of fully vaccinated persons can get asymptomatic or mild infections and may be able to infect others. This is why even if you are fully vaccinated, you are now required to wear a mask indoors.
- For masks to work properly, they need to completely cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of your face and around your nose. Your mask should be made with two or more layers of tightly woven, breathable material.

**Infants and children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask. Children ages 2 to 8 should wear a mask only when under adult supervision.*

HOW WEARING A MASK CAN SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19:

- COVID-19 spreads when an infected person breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus. These droplets and particles can then be breathed in by other people or land on their eyes, noses, or mouth.

Protect others: wearing a mask over your mouth and nose lowers the number of respiratory droplets and particles that you release into the air when you breathe or talk.

Protect yourself: wearing a mask over your mouth and nose also lowers the number of respiratory droplets and particles from someone else that get into your nose, mouth, and lungs.

MASK WEARING RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

EVERYONE*, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS, MUST WEAR A MASK:

- In all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and public and private businesses in Santa Barbara County
- On planes, trains, buses, ferries, taxis and ride-shares, and all other forms of public transport
- In transportation hubs like airports, bus terminals, train stations, marinas, seaports or other ports, subway stations, or any other area that provides transportation
- Healthcare settings (including long-term care facilities)
- State and local correctional facilities and detention centers
- Shelters and cooling centers
- Indoors at any youth-serving facility (such as K-12 schools, childcare, day camps, etc.)
- In any outdoor location where it is the policy of the business or venue

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is strongly recommended that you wear a mask at private indoor social gatherings with people outside your household, unless everyone at the gathering is fully vaccinated.
- It is strongly recommended that you wear a mask at large outdoor ticketed events when you are not in your seat. For example, while in line to enter, exit, use the bathroom, or buy food or drinks.
- It is strongly recommended that you wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings.
- If you are in a setting where you are in sustained close contact with other people who may not be fully vaccinated, consider wearing a higher level of protection, such as wearing two masks (double masking) or a respirator (e.g., N95 or KN95). This is especially important if you are not fully vaccinated and are in an indoor or crowded outdoor setting.

“Indoor Public Setting” or **“Indoor Public Settings”** for the purpose of this Health Officer Order is defined to mean an enclosed area whether privately or publicly owned, to which the public have access by right or by invitation, expressed or implied, whether by payment of money or not, but not a place when used exclusively by one or more individuals for a private gathering or other personal purpose.

“Outdoor settings” are defined to include operations that are conducted under a tent, canopy, or other sun shelter, as long as no more than 50% of the structure’s perimeter has impermeable walls, allowing sufficient, unrestricted outdoor air movement resulting in cross-ventilation. Such walls must be non-adjacent or non-continuous. Of note, doors, windows and other portals do not make a wall “non-continuous.” Adjacent walls are walls that touch each other and form a corner.

In the workplace, workers must follow the most protective mask requirements as stated by Cal/OSHA and the County Health Officer Order. Certain employees may be exempt from wearing a mask in specific situations provided alternative safety measures are in place.

Note: You are allowed to take off your mask while you are:

- Actively eating or drinking as long as you are sitting or standing in a specific place such as a table or counter.
- Alone in a separate room or office.
- Showering or swimming.
- Performing or receiving personal hygiene or personal care services (like a facial or shave) that cannot be done without removing your mask.

**There are some people who should not wear a mask, such as children younger than 2, people with certain medical conditions or disabilities, and people instructed by their medical provider not to wear a mask.*