

**CITY OF PASADENA HEALTH OFFICER ORDER
FOR THE CONTROL OF COVID-19**

**ORDER TO EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE UPGRADED FACE MASKS TO
EMPLOYEES IN INDOOR SETTINGS**

This Order Issued: January 11, 2022

This Order is in effect as of January 17, 2022, 12:01 AM until rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code §120295.)

SUMMARY OF THE ORDER: Since June 15, 2021 when most restrictions from the State of California’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy were lifted, the average daily incident case rate of COVID-19 in the City of Pasadena has far surpassed the threshold for the “High Transmission” level of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Indicators for [Levels of Community Transmission](#). The testing positivity rate in Pasadena has also risen to the “High Transmission” level. In Los Angeles County where a large proportion of the people who work, visit, or patronize businesses in Pasadena reside, the rate of COVID-19 cases has increased to the “High Transmission” level, contributing to risk of transmission in this City. Hospitalizations from COVID-19 both locally and throughout Los Angeles County have significantly increased.

In addition, the significantly more transmissible World Health Organization-designated Variants of Concern, including Delta and Omicron variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, have been detected in specimens collected from Pasadena residents with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, and the current dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases is largely driven by the Omicron variant, proving to be at least three times more transmissible than Delta. The COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the US have been shown to be highly safe and effective at providing protection against severe outcomes to individuals and communities, and are recommended by the CDC for all populations for whom the vaccine is authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration, including booster dose recommendations. Masks have been shown to be effective as source control as well as to protect the wearer, if used consistently and correctly. [Upgraded masks](#), such as three-ply medical-grade surgical masks or KN95, and N95 respirators, have increased filtration which should be combined with a proper fit that prevents leaks.

This Order directs all employers to provide their employees who work indoors and in close contact with other workers or the public, with and require them to wear, a well-fitting medical grade or higher-level mask at all times while indoors at the worksite or facility.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 120175 et seq., AND THE PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 8.04.010, THE CITY OF PASADENA HEALTH OFFICER ORDERS:

- 1. As soon as possible, but no later than January 17, 2022, employers are required to provide their employees, who work indoors and in close contact with other workers or the public, with and require those employees to wear, well-fitting medical-grade surgical mask or higher-level respirator, such as N95 filtering facepiece respirator or KN95, at all times while indoors at the worksite or facility.**
2. All previous Health Officer Orders regarding the wearing of face coverings in public settings that have not been rescinded or superseded remain in full force and effect except to the extent inconsistent with this Order.
3. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has declared that the Q&A and Industry Guidance set forth on the CDPH COVID-19 website have the same force and effect as other State Public Health Officer directives. By way of this Order, the Health Officer adopts such directives as orders as well.
4. Protocols established by the Health Officer to implement health orders issued by the State Public Health Officer or the City of Pasadena Health Officer have the same force and effect as other Orders issued by the Health Officer. To the extent any health order of the Health Officer, including any protocols established to implement any health order, is more restrictive than any order or directive issued by the State Public Health Officer, the health order of the Health Officer shall control.
5. This Order applies to all persons within the City of Pasadena under the Health Officer's jurisdiction.
6. Violation of this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, fine or both under California Health and Safety Code Section 120295. This Order will be enforced by the City of Pasadena Police Department, City Attorney/City Prosecutor's Office, and/or any other agency designated by the Pasadena City Manager for enforcement.
7. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order (or any other prior Order) or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Order (or any other prior Order).

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Ying-Ying Goh, MD, MSHS
Health Officer, City of Pasadena

Date: 1/11/2022