

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

**ORDER REQUIRING WEARING OF
FACE MASKS IN ALL HEALTH CARE SETTINGS**

This Order Issued: September 27, 2022

This Order is in effect as immediately until rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.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 the start of the pandemic, the Pasadena Public Health Department (PPHD) has led with science and data to better understand and respond to COVID-19. Pasadena has seen a dramatic increase in the percentage of people who are fully vaccinated and boosted. Similarly, a high percentage of the population have experienced infection from recent variants. Since April 2022, the daily incident case rate of COVID-19 in the City of Pasadena has remained in the “High Transmission” level of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) indicators for [Levels of Community Transmission](#). The testing positivity rate in Pasadena also rose 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 more than doubled. Since September 5, the community levels of transmission in the city declined to the “Substantial Transmission” level.

In addition, since the emergence of the significantly more transmissible World Health Organization (WHO)-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. COVID-19 vaccination and boosters continue to remain the most important strategy to prevent serious illness and death from COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the US have been shown to be highly safe and effective at providing protection against severe disease 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. The [State Public Health Officer order of September 17, 2022](#) requires all healthcare workers currently eligible for boosters to be “fully vaccinated and boosted” by March 1, 2022. The State Public Health Officer’s Order was updated to allow for workers who have completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccination and provide sufficient proof of recent COVID-19 infection after completion of their primary series, to defer their booster dose by up to 90 days from infection. To provide proof of recent infection, workers must provide documentation of previous COVID-19 diagnosis from a healthcare provider or confirmed laboratory results.

Hospitals, skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), home care residential settings, and the other

health care facility types identified in this order are particularly high-risk settings where COVID-19 outbreaks can have severe consequences for vulnerable populations including hospitalization, severe illness, and death. The settings identified in the Order are places with frequent close contact between facility workers and highly vulnerable patients, including elderly, chronically ill, critically ill, medically fragile, and disabled individuals. Outbreaks in healthcare facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and other congregate settings have often been traced to unvaccinated staff members. Vaccination is the most effective way to reduce risk of COVID-19 virus transmission in healthcare facilities and home health care settings.

CDC review of the scientific evidence on masking finds:

“Masks help prevent people who have COVID-19, including those who are pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic, from spreading the virus to others.¹ Masks are primarily intended to reduce the emission of virus-laden droplets, i.e., they act as source control by blocking exhaled virus.² This is especially relevant for asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic infected wearers who feel well and may be unaware of their infectiousness to others, and who are estimated to account for more than 50% of transmissions.^{3,4} Masks also provide personal protection to the wearer by reducing inhalation of these droplets, i.e., they reduce wearers’ exposure through filtration.⁵ The community benefit of wearing masks for SARS-CoV-2 control is due to the combination of these effects; individual prevention benefit increases with increasing numbers of people using masks consistently and correctly.

Appropriately worn masks reduce the spread of COVID-19 – particularly given the evidence of pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19. Seven studies have confirmed the benefit of universal masking in community level analyses: in a unified hospital system,⁶ a German city,⁷ a U.S. State,⁸ a panel of 15 U.S. States and Washington,

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Science Brief: [Community Use of Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2](#). (December 6, 2021).

² Leung NHL, Chu DKW, Shiu EYC, et al. [Respiratory virus shedding in exhaled breath and efficacy of face masks](#). Nature Medicine. 2020;26(5):676-680.

³ Moghadas SM, Fitzpatrick MC, Sah P, et al. [The implications of silent transmission for the control of COVID-19 outbreaks](#). Proc Natl Acad Sci USA. 2020;117(30):17513-17513.10.1073/pnas.2008373117.

⁴ Johansson MA, Quandelacy TM, Kada S, et al. [SARS-CoV-2 Transmission From People Without COVID-19 Symptoms](#). JAMA Netw Open. 2021 Jan 4;4(1):e2035057. Doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.35057.

⁵ Ueki H, Furusawa Y, Iwatsuki-Horimoto K, et al. [Effectiveness of Face Masks in Preventing Airborne Transmission of SARS-CoV-2](#). mSphere. 2020;5(5).10.1128/mSphere.00637-20.

⁶ Wang X, Ferro EG, Zhou G, Hashimoto D, Bhatt DL. [Association Between Universal Masking in a Health Care System and SARS-CoV-2 Positivity Among Health Care Workers](#). JAMA, 2020.10.1001/jama.2020.12897.

⁷ Mitze T, Kosfeld R, Rode J, Wälde K. [Face Masks Considerably Reduce COVID-19 Cases in Germany: A Synthetic Control Method Approach](#). IZA-Institute of Labor Economics (Germany);2020.ISSN:2365-9793,DPNo.13319.

⁸ Gallaway MS, Rigler J, Robinson S, et al. [Trends in COVID-19 Incidence After Implementation of Mitigation Measures-Arizona, January 22-August 7, 2020](#). MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2020;69(40):1460-1463.10.15585/mmwr.mm6940e3.

D.C.,^{9,10} as well as both Canada¹¹ and the United States¹² nationally. Each analysis demonstrated that, following directives from organizational and political leadership for universal masking, new infections fell significantly.”

Masks, especially respirators that offer the best fit and filtration (e.g., N95, KN95, KF94) continue to be recommended, and remain a critical component of our multi-layered approach for protection against COVID-19 infection. The California Department of Public Health published a [case-control study conducted in California](#) from February 18 to December 1, 2021 that provided evidence that consistently wearing a face mask or respirator in indoor public settings reduces the risk of acquiring SARS-CoV-2 infection. Masks also remain a critical tool for protecting those that are most vulnerable in our communities, people who are not vaccinated or not yet vaccine-eligible, people with compromised immune systems, or those at risk for severe disease and illness from COVID-19.

This Order directs all individuals to continue wearing face masks in health care settings within the City of Pasadena, with limited exemptions as listed below.

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. This Order requires that all persons 2 years of age and older, regardless of vaccination status, wear a face mask or respirator that covers their mouth and nose at indoor health care settings within the City of Pasadena, such as, but not limited to, hospitals, medical offices, skilled nursing facilities, and other long-term care settings such as adult and senior care facilities. This requirement applies to all health care settings, including those that are not covered by the [State Health Officer Order issued on July 26, 2021](#).
 - a. Operators of healthcare facilities or settings where face masks are required to be worn indoors, shall take the following actions:
 - i. Require employees and workers to wear a well-fitting medical mask or respirator that covers their mouth and nose while working indoors with others and in vehicles with more than one person.
 - ii. Provide information to all patrons, guests, and attendees regarding masking requirements for all persons 2 years of age and older, regardless of vaccination status.

⁹Lyu W, Wehby GL. [Community Use of Face Masks and COVID-19: Evidence From a Natural Experiment of State Mandates in the US](#). Health Aff (Millwood). 2020;39(8):1419-1425.10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00818.

¹⁰ Hatzius J, Struyven D, Rosenberg I. [Face Masks and GDP](#). Goldman Sachs Research. Accessed Jan 20, 2021.

¹¹ Karaivanov A, Lu SE, Shigeoka H, Chen C, Pamplona S. [Face Masks, Public Policies and Slowing the Spread of COVID-19: Evidence from Canada](#). National Bureau of Economic Research 2020. Working Paper 27891.

¹² Chernozhukov V, Kasahara H, Schrimpf P. [Causal Impact of Masks, Policies, Behavior on Early COVID-19 Pandemic in the U.S.](#) J Econom. 2021 Jan;220(1):23-62. Doi: 10.1016/j.jeconom.2020.09.003. Epub 2020 Oct 17.

- iii. Post conspicuous signage at the entrance and other places within the facility to clearly communicate the indoor masking requirement to all persons coming into the indoor portion of the premises.
 - iv. Remind all patrons, employees, and workers to wear masks that covers their mouth and nose while indoors.
2. In accordance with the [California Department of Public Health exemptions for mask wearing](#), the following **individuals** are exempt from wearing masks at all times:
 - Persons younger than two years old. Very young children must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation.
 - Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.
 - Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
 - Persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
3. It is strongly recommended that everyone stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccination. In addition, unvaccinated as well as fully vaccinated people should continue to follow CDC guidance for [unvaccinated people](#) and for [fully vaccinated people](#) to [protect themselves and others](#), including wearing a well-fitted [mask](#), [physical distancing](#) (at least 6 feet), avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, [washing hands](#) often, and following any applicable workplace, school, or business sector guidance or requirements including the [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards](#). Recommendations vary depending on level of risk in a community ([COVID-19 Community Level](#)), vaccination status, personal risk or underlying medical conditions, and individual preferences. Fully vaccinated people should still watch for [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, especially following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. If symptoms develop, all people – regardless of vaccination status – should isolate and be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing. Anyone testing positive for SARS-CoV-2, regardless of vaccination status, must follow the [Health Officer Order for Isolation](#).
4. All previous orders of the Health Officer, as revised, supplemented and/or amended and that have not been expressly rescinded or superseded, remain in full force and effect, except as provided herein. To the extent a conflict exists between this Order and any previous orders of the Health Officer, the previous orders are hereby superseded and this Order controls.

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. This Order applies to all persons within the City of Pasadena under the Health Officer's jurisdiction.
8. 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.
9. 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:



Eric G. Handler, MD, MPH, FAAP
Health Officer, City of Pasadena

Date: 09/27/2022