

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

**ORDER FOR WEARING OF FACE MASKS IN PUBLIC SETTINGS**

**This Order Issued: July 21, 2021**

**This Order is in effect as of July 22, 2021, 12:01 AM until rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.**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 increased by 586% to reach the “Substantial 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 “Substantial 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, introducing even greater risk of transmission in this City. Hospitalizations from COVID-19 both locally and throughout Los Angeles County have more than doubled.

In addition, the significantly more transmissible Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has become the predominant strain in the US and has been detected in specimens collected from Pasadena residents with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, from multiple unrelated households. The COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the US have been shown to be highly safe and effective at providing protection 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. Recent real-world evidence supports research findings that suggest authorized vaccines are highly protective against hospitalization and death from infection with the Delta variant, and people who are fully vaccinated are much less likely to be contagious or transmit the virus to someone else. However, data are still being gathered and analyzed for additional clarity on rates of infection among fully vaccinated individuals and their role in transmission.

In considering options to stem this rapid increase in COVID-19 transmission, a continued increase in the vaccination rate is paramount, but additional measures are needed. Universal indoor masking is the least disruptive and most effective additional measure to take. All individuals, especially those who are unvaccinated or at higher risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19, should take personal measures to reduce risk in addition to masking.

**This Order directs all individuals to wear face masks when indoors in public settings, with limited exemptions, and requires businesses to make face masks available to individuals entering the business.**

**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. The Health Officer Order issued on June 14, 2021 that requires all individuals and businesses to comply with the [Guidance for Use of Face Coverings](#) issued by the CDPH and made effective June 15, 2021, remains in effect except as inconsistent with this Order as set forth below.
2. This Order directs that face masks shall be worn, regardless of vaccination status, in all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and businesses, such as, but not limited to: offices, retail, restaurants and bars, theaters, family entertainment centers, conference centers, and state and local government offices serving the public.
3. Individuals, businesses, venue operators or hosts of public indoor settings must:
  - Require all patrons to wear face masks for all indoor settings, regardless of their vaccination status;
  - Make face masks available to patrons;
  - Post clearly visible and easy-to-read signage at all entry points for indoor and outdoor settings to communicate the masking requirements to all patrons.
4. Exemptions from face mask requirements – Individuals are not required to wear face masks in the following circumstances:
  - Persons who are working alone in a closed office or room;
  - Persons who are actively eating and/or drinking;
  - Persons swimming or showering in a fitness facility;
  - Persons who are obtaining a medical or cosmetic service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face mask is necessary to perform the service;
  - In workplaces, employees performing specific tasks which cannot feasibly be performed while wearing a mask. This exception is limited to the period of time in which such tasks are actually being performed. Workers who cannot feasibly wear a mask while performing their work must be tested for COVID-19 at least twice per week, unless the employer is provided proof of the employee’s full vaccination against COVID-19 or proof of recovery from laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days; or
  - Persons who are specifically exempted from wearing face masks pursuant to other CDPH guidance.
5. Employers and businesses subject to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) and/or the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standards should consult the applicable regulations for additional requirements. The

ETS allow local health jurisdictions to mandate more protective measures. This Order, which requires face masks for all individuals in indoor settings and businesses, regardless of vaccination status, takes precedence over the more permissive ETS regarding employee face masks.

6. Mega Events

- Indoor Mega-events: All attendees of indoor mega-events (defined as 5,000 or more attendees) must wear face masks while indoors and must otherwise comply with the restrictions set forth in the [CDPH guidance Beyond the Blueprint for Industries and Sectors](#).
- Outdoor Mega-events: Attendees of outdoor mega-events (defined as 10,000 or more attendees) are required to wear face masks while in an indoor setting and in areas where 50% of the structure has adjacent impermeable walls, such as concourses and concession stands, and must otherwise comply with the restrictions set forth in the [CDPH guidance Beyond the Blueprint for Industries and Sectors](#).

7. 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 Emergency Temporary Standards](#). 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 Orders for Isolation](#).

8. The 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.

9. 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.

10. This Order applies to all persons within the City of Pasadena under the Health Officer's jurisdiction.

11. 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.
12. 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:**



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

Date: 7/21/21