

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

**ORDER FOR CONTINUATION OF WEARING OF  
FACE MASKS IN ALL PUBLIC TRANSIT**

**This Order Issued: April 21, 2022**

**This Order is in effect immediately until rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.**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:** The City of Pasadena and the surrounding Los Angeles County are currently experiencing increases in COVID-19 cases (now in the [Substantial](#) level) and test positivity rates, and related hospitalizations are no longer in decline. The percentage of cases caused by the more easily transmitted BA.2 subvariant raises concern for removing community-level infection control strategies that have been in place, such as the federal requirement for masking on transit.

This Order focuses the public health response to COVID-19 in Pasadena to protect the most vulnerable among us at higher risk settings, safeguard the functioning of the hospital and health care system, and mitigate illness and spread of COVID-19. This Order supports the CDC's assessment that at this time requiring masking in the transportation corridor remains necessary for protecting the public health. CDC review of the scientific evidence finds:

“Masks help prevent people who have COVID-19, including those who are pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic, from spreading the virus to others.<sup>1</sup> Masks are primarily intended to reduce the emission of virus-laden droplets, i.e., they act as source control by blocking exhaled virus.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3,4</sup> Masks also provide personal protection to the wearer by reducing inhalation of these droplets, i.e., they reduce wearers' exposure through filtration.<sup>5</sup> 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

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,<sup>6</sup> a German city,<sup>7</sup> a U.S. State,<sup>8</sup> a panel of 15 U.S. States and Washington, D.C.,<sup>9,10</sup> as well as both Canada<sup>11</sup> and the United States<sup>12</sup> nationally. Each analysis demonstrated that, following directives from organizational and political leadership for universal masking, new infections fell significantly.”

Traveling on public conveyances increases a person’s risk of getting and spreading COVID-19 by bringing people in close contact with others, often for prolonged periods, and often in crowded settings with limited and inadequate ventilation. Workers spend extended periods of time in these settings, coming into contact with very high numbers of people. Masks are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public setting. Masks, especially respirators that offer the best fit and filtration (e.g., N95, KN95, KF94) are highly 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. Maintaining masking requirements in specified high-risk settings, when in transportation hubs, and when traveling on public conveyances, is consistent with CDC recommendations.

**This Order directs, consistent with CDC recommendations, all individuals to continue wearing face masks in all public transit 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:**

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup>Lyu 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.

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

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

1. This Order directs that face masks shall be worn, regardless of vaccination status, in all public transit within the City of Pasadena, such as, but not limited to, commuter trains, subways, buses, taxis and ride-shares, and indoor transportation hubs such as bus and train stations. It remains the CDC's continuing assessment that at this time an order requiring masking for indoor public transit is necessary for public health. This masking requirement will be reassessed when: community transmission of COVID-19 in Pasadena and Los Angeles County drops to the [Moderate Level](#) OR the CDC's assessment is that an order requiring masking in the transportation corridor is no longer necessary for protection of the public's health OR within 30 days of this Order, whichever occurs first.
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:**



Date: 4/21/2022

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