When Do You Need Your Mask in California?





MASKS ARE RECOMMENDED for everyone in indoor public places

Due to rising COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, California recommends everyone wear masks in indoor public places (such as grocery stores and movie theaters) regardless of vaccination status.

MASKS ARE REQUIRED for everyone who is not fully vaccinated in indoor public places

People who are not fully vaccinated¹ must wear masks in all indoor public places (such as grocery stores and movie theaters) and should wear masks in outdoor crowded settings when a region is experiencing high COVID transmission.





MASKS ARE REQUIRED for everyone in specific places like hospitals and public transit

Everyone must wear a mask on public transit (airports, planes, trains, buses, stations) and in healthcare settings, K-12 schools and childcare settings, correctional facilities, cooling centers, and shelters.

BUSINESSES MAY ASK you to wear a mask or show vaccination status

Businesses and event venues may require customers to wear masks or show vaccine status.

MORE RESTRICTIVE LOCAL RULES may apply

Check to see if your county has more restrictive rules based on local conditions.

YOU CAN'T BE DENIED SERVICE for choosing to wear a mask

No business or venue may deny service to a person who chooses to wear a mask.

SOME EXEMPTIONS APPLY

Children under age 2 and people with certain medical conditions are not required to wear a mask.

REDUCE YOUR RISK

COVID-19 spreads more easily in indoor, closed spaces with poor airflow and in crowded places where people are close together or talking. Masks provide protection in these situations.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MASK

Choose a mask that fits snugly over your mouth and nose and choose a mask made with two or more layers of fabric. Read more about how to get the most out of masking and see California's masking guidance. An N95 respirator, that you wear for poor air quality from wildfires, provides the highest level of personal protection.

¹Someone is considered fully vaccinated two weeks or more after their second dose of Pfizer/Moderna or two weeks after receiving the single dose J&J vaccine.

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