



## WHEN TO WEAR A FACE MASK

Revised August 4, 2021

[Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus)

While vaccination continues to be the most important public health action to end the COVID-19 pandemic, the surge of the Delta variant across the U.S. prompted the CDC to issue updated recommendations for masking in July 2021.

- **CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.** Children should have full-time, in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies.
- **CDC recommends that community leaders encourage vaccination and masking** to prevent further outbreaks, especially in areas of [substantial and high transmission](#).
- **The CDC requires** that all persons wear masks on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation, as well as at airports and stations.
- In areas with substantial and high transmission, **CDC recommends that everyone (including fully vaccinated individuals) wear a mask in public indoor settings** to help prevent spread of COVID-19, especially the Delta variant, and to protect others.
- CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with COVID-19 get tested three to five days after exposure and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test.
- Additionally, **fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission**, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at [increased risk for severe disease](#) from COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated.

### **What Does that Mean for People in Michigan?**

In Michigan, there is no **statewide** requirement to wear a face mask in most settings; however, local health departments, establishments, and school districts may have additional rules that must be followed.

**It is SAFER to wear a mask in high-risk settings where many unvaccinated individuals are present, to protect vulnerable populations, or when community transmission is high.**

- It is SAFER for individuals who are **not yet fully vaccinated** to wear a face mask when in **indoor settings with people who they do not live with**.
- It is SAFER for everyone to wear a mask in **classrooms and other school facilities**. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time, in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.
- It is SAFER to wear a mask when participating in **contact sports**.
- It is SAFER to wear a mask in **residential care facilities**, including nursing homes, adult foster care and homes for the aged.
- It is SAFER to wear a mask in **congregate settings**, including **jails**, **prisons**, migrant worker housing, **homeless shelters**, **childcare institutions**, etc.
  - The settings listed here are higher risk due to data regarding previous outbreaks and transmission in congregate settings.
- It is SAFER to wear a mask in **health care facilities**, such as hospitals, ambulatory care settings, and surgical centers.
- It is SAFER to wear a mask in public indoor settings **in areas experiencing substantial or high levels of community transmission**.

### How CDC determines level of community transmission

The level of community transmission is determined by the CDC from the number of COVID-19 cases there are in the population and the percent of COVID-19 tests that are positive. Learn more at [CDC.gov/COVID-Data-Tracker](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-Data-Tracker).

When transmission is **low**, control is achieved largely through individual prevention behaviors and the public health response is meant to identify and isolate clusters of disease.

When transmission is **moderate**, adherence to individual and selected community level prevention strategies are needed to control the pandemic.

At **substantial** transmission, every day activities should be limited to reduce spread and protect the health care system.

At **high** transmission, significant measures are needed to limit contact between persons, with priority given to maintaining essential community activities and services (e.g., health care, transportation, food and agriculture, and schools).

For the latest information on Michigan's response to COVID-19, please visit [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus). You may also call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 or email [COVID19@michigan.gov](mailto:COVID19@michigan.gov).