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Masks

State of California

4-5 minutes

Here are California’s current mask recommendations and requirements.

On this page:

- [Masks in daily life](#)
 - [Masks in the workplace](#)
 - [Guidance for businesses](#)
 - [Questions and answers](#)
-

Masks in daily life

These are the statewide guidelines for masks. Your local area may have more. Check [your area’s COVID-19 website](#).

- **Everyone is required to wear masks in the following settings:**
 - Public transit
 - Healthcare settings (including long term care facilities)
 - Adult and senior care facilities
 - Indoors in K-12 schools, childcare, and other youth settings

- State and local correctional facilities and detention centers
- Homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling centers



- **Masks are required for unvaccinated people and recommended for everyone in indoor public places, like:**
 - Retail
 - Restaurants
 - Theaters
 - Family entertainment centers
 - Meetings

See complete mask exemptions details at CDPH's [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#).

Masks in the workplace

Cal/OSHA has aligned workplace mask requirements with general mask guidance from the CDPH.

- **Masks are not required outdoors** (except during outbreaks), regardless of vaccination status. Workers should be trained for outdoor use of face coverings.
- **Masks are not required for fully-vaccinated employees indoors, but they are recommended.** Employers must document employees' vaccination status.
- There are some settings where masks are required regardless of vaccination status. In outbreaks, all employees must wear masks indoors and outdoors when six feet of physical distance cannot be maintained.
- **Employers must provide unvaccinated employees with NIOSH-certified respirator masks** for voluntary use when:
 - Working indoors, or
 - In a vehicle with others.
- **Unvaccinated workers must wear masks in state offices.**

For more information, see Cal/OSHA's [COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards](#) (ETS), the [state public health officer order](#) of July 26, 2021, and [CalHR's Vaccine Verification and Testing Requirements](#).

Guidance for businesses

In settings where masks are still required, businesses, venue operators, or hosts may choose to:

- Provide information to all patrons, guests and attendees regarding vaccination requirements and **allow individuals to self-attest** that they are fully vaccinated or meet an [approved masking exemption](#) prior to entry.
- **Implement vaccine verification** to determine whether individuals are required to wear a mask.
- **Require all patrons to wear masks.**

No person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a business.

Questions and answers