



COVID-19

April mask mandate extension

Fact sheet

In July 2020, Governor Polis signed Colorado's first statewide mask order requiring masks to be worn in all public indoor spaces. The Governor has extended the order every 30 days since then.

Effective April 3, the Governor extended the statewide mask mandate, modifying it with two sets of requirements that apply depending on a county's local metrics.

- The updated Executive Order will continue to require mask-wearing for all counties in schools (including for extracurricular activities), child care centers, indoor children's camps, public-facing state government facilities, Emergency medical and other healthcare settings (including hospitals, ambulance service centers, urgent care centers, non-ambulatory surgical structures, clinics, doctors' offices, and non-urgent care medical structures), personal services (i.e. hair salons, nail salons, esthetician services, body art professionals, etc.) and limited health care settings as defined by Public Health Order (PHO) 20-36, congregate care facilities, prisons, and jails.
- In counties with one-week disease incidence rates in excess of 35 per 100,000 -- which are currently known in Dial 3.0 as blue, yellow, orange, red, and purple counties -- masks must also be worn in public indoor settings where 10 or more unvaccinated individuals or individuals of unknown vaccination status are present.

This mask order extension with modified restrictions comes as more than 1 million Coloradans have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Frequently asked questions

When do I have to wear a mask?

In all counties and all dial levels, you need to wear a mask in schools (including for extracurricular activities), child care centers, indoor children's camps, public-facing state government facilities, personal services (i.e. hair salons, nail salons, esthetician services, body art professionals, etc.), limited health care settings as defined by Public Health Order

(PHO) 20-36, congregate care facilities, prisons, and jails. These are settings where transmission is most likely.

In counties in Level Blue through Level Purple on the dail (one-week disease incidence rates in excess of 35 per 100,000 people), you also need to wear a mask whenever you are in public indoor settings where 10 or more unvaccinated individuals or individuals of unknown vaccination status are present.

Local communities may have additional mask restrictions.

When can I go without a mask?

The statewide mask order does not require masks outside. Local communities may have additional mask restrictions so people should check local ordinances.

Additionally, the statewide mask order does not require people to wear a mask if they are:

- hearing impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication;
- seated at a food service establishment;
- exercising alone or with others from the individual's household and a face covering would interfere with the activity;
- receiving a personal service where the temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;
- entering a business or receive services and are asked to temporarily remove a face covering for identification purposes;
- actively engaged in a public safety role, such as law enforcement officers, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel;
- officiating or participating in a life rite or religious service where the temporary removal of a face covering is necessary to complete or participate in the life rite or religious service; or
- giving a speech for broadcast or an audience.

Isn't it safer to wear a mask now that variants of COVID-19 are circulating?

The state still encourages mask wearing in any setting where you may be interacting with people outside your household, especially indoors. Masks work well to protect people from all forms of COVID-19, including variants.

What counts as a public indoor setting?

A public indoor setting is any enclosed indoor area that is publicly or privately owned, managed, or operated, that is accessible to the public, serves as a place of employment, or is an entity providing services. It does not mean a person's residence.

Are there rules governing mask-wearing in my personal residence?

No, the mask order does not apply to anyone's personal residence. However, [guidance from the CDC](#) advises limiting the number of guests, keeping physical distance, and wearing masks when socializing in your home with people outside your household if you have not been vaccinated. [People who have been vaccinated](#) may go without masks if they are socializing with one other household at low risk of severe disease, but the CDC still recommends avoiding large private gatherings, especially indoors.

How will an indoor business or facility know whether they have 10 or more unvaccinated people at their site?

Businesses or facilities should err on the side of assuming that people entering their indoor site are unvaccinated. With 1 in 6 Coloradans fully vaccinated, most indoor public settings like grocery stores, retail stores, and gyms will need to require mask wearing.

Why is the state modifying mask requirements now?

By continuing to wear masks in public indoor settings around others, we can more safely enjoy the activities we love and keep our economy open. Every community has been impacted differently by this pandemic, and we want to make sure this order reflects that.

This modified mask order is a step toward the light at the end of the tunnel. It acknowledges a transition away from requirements for those counties in Level Green with very low transmission, with 35 cases or less per 100,000 people, and the great achievement they have made toward ending the pandemic.

As of April 1, 2021, more than 1 million Coloradans have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and more than 1.6 million Coloradans have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Because of these developments in statewide vaccination, the state's role in mandating statewide restrictions is lessening and the role of local communities to manage transmission is increasing.

Why are schools, child care centers, and indoor children's camps still required to wear masks in all counties?

None of the vaccines are approved for children under 16 years old. The Moderna and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccines are only approved for adults 18 and older.

Until a vaccine is approved for children 16 and under and widely available, schools should still implement and layer prevention strategies and should prioritize universal and correct use of

masks and physical distancing.

The latest CDC evidence suggests that many K-12 schools that have strictly implemented prevention strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and have remained open during the pandemic. Find the CDC's latest operational strategy for K-12 schools, released March 19, 2021, at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>

How many counties are in Level Green with very low transmission or 35 or less cases per 100,000 people?

As of April 2, the number of counties that are in Level Green is 31, representing an approximate population of 238,000 Coloradans. The number of counties in Levels Blue, Yellow, Orange, or Red is 33, representing an approximate population of 5.5 million.

How long does this mask order last?

This Statewide Mask Order lasts for 30 days and will expire May 2.

Will the mask order be renewed again when it expires in May?

The Governor, public health experts, and the Governor's legal team review every Executive Order before expiration. We are closely monitoring disease transmission, hospitalizations, and vaccination rates, and will consider these factors prior to the Executive Order's expiration.