

Indoor Mask Mandate FAQ

- **What is the rationale for a mask mandate?**
 - Colorado has a growing crisis in hospital capacity, particularly in staffed ICU beds.
 - The current surge in hospitalizations has increased to a level not seen since December 2020.
 - In response to the current surge in hospitalizations, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Governor Polis issued orders reactivating crisis standards of care throughout the state.
 - Vaccines are the most effective way to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and symptomatic disease of COVID-19.
 - Masks are an important component of a layered mitigation strategy to prevent disease and get transmission under control in the community.
 - However, increased vaccination rates will not immediately reduce the number of individuals requiring hospitalization for severe illness.
 - Universal masking in all public indoor spaces is a proven mitigation measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19 more immediately.
- **When does the mandate go into effect?**
 - Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 12:01AM MST
- **When will the mandate [expire](#)?**
 - Order remains in effect at least until 1/2/22 and thereafter until Staffed ICU Bed Capacity in the North Central Emergency Preparedness Region reaches 10% or greater for 14 consecutive days.
- **How will the mandate be enforced?**
 - TCHD will attempt to seek voluntary compliance through education, technical assistance and warning notices. However, this Order may be enforced by any appropriate legal means.
- **Who does the mandate apply to?**
 - All individuals 2 years of age and older must wear a face covering in all public indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status, unless otherwise allowed through vaccination verification.

For Individuals:

- **Are there any exemptions?**
 - Individuals younger than 2, and individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering are exempt.
 - Individuals who 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.
 - Individuals who are seated at a food service establishment or actively eating or drinking.

- Individuals who are receiving a personal, religious, or medical service where the temporary removal of the **Face Covering** is necessary to perform the service.
- Individuals who are asked to temporarily remove their **Face Covering** for identification purposes in furtherance of a particular service requiring legal identification.
- Individuals who are actively engaged in a public safety role, such as law enforcement personnel, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel.
- Individuals who are giving a speech for broadcast or an audience, so long as they remain at least twelve (12) feet away from non-household members.
- Individuals who are alone in an enclosed room or only with members of their same Household.
- Individuals who are actively engaged in a performing arts performance, leading religious services, or engaged in other similar activities, so long as the individual maintains at least twelve (12) feet distance from non-household members.
- Individuals actively playing an instrument that cannot otherwise be played while wearing a **Face Covering**.
- Individuals who are in a swimming pool and actively engaged in a pool activity in which their **Face Covering** might become wet.
- Individuals actively engaged in gymnastics, tumbling, cheer, or wrestling, where it is not safe to wear a **Face Covering**.
- Individuals inside a **Fully Vaccinated Facility**.
- **Can people remove their masks during certain activities?**
 - Individuals subject to the requirements of the order can temporarily remove their face covering when actively engaged in any of the following activities:
 - 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 or actively eating or drinking
 - Receiving a personal, religious, or medical service where the temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service
 - Temporary removal for identification purposes
 - Engaging in a public safety role such as law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel
 - Giving a speech for broadcast or an audience, so long as they maintain 12-foot distance from non-household members
 - Engaging in a performing arts performance, so long as they maintain 12-foot distance from non-household members
 - Engaging in a pool activity in which their face covering might become wet
 - Engaging in gymnastics, tumbling, cheer, or wrestling, where it is not safe to wear a face covering
- **Where are masks required?**
 - The Order applies only to public indoor spaces, such as event spaces, businesses, restaurants, gyms, government buildings and facilities, offices, and other spaces that are

not considered an individual's residence. The order also applies to common areas of apartments buildings and dormitories.

- The Order does not apply to private homes, although TCHD recommends wearing a face covering when around individuals from another household, particularly if at least one individual is not fully vaccinated.
- Additionally, the [Universal Mask Order for Schools and Child Care Facilities](#) requiring facial coverings in all individuals aged 2 years and older in schools and child care settings still applies.
- **How do I share a comment or report a concern?**
 - To make a comment or report a concern about masking in indoor public spaces in Adams and Arapahoe counties, complete the [Indoor Public Space Mask Concern Form](#).

For Businesses and Facilities:

- **How does my business implement this mandate?**
 - Businesses and owners and operators of public indoor spaces should [post signs](#) at their entrances indicating that a mask is required for all individuals age 2 and older in order to enter. Businesses should deny entry to all individuals who do not comply with the requirements of the order.
- **Who do I contact with questions about this order?**
 - Covidbusinessrecovery@tchd.org
- **What is the Voluntary Vaccination Verification Program?**
 - Please see [TCHD's guidance for Fully Vaccinated Facilities](#) for more information on this program and to apply.
- **How can my business accommodate medical exemptions?**
 - If an individual has a medical exemption, businesses and owners and operators of public indoor spaces should take steps to find a reasonable accommodation for the individual. This could include a face shield, plexiglass barriers, distancing requirements from others, remote work, etc.