



Los Angeles County

WHEN YOU NEED TO WEAR A MASK

12-9-22: LA County is experiencing high rates of COVID-19, flu, and RSV. These three respiratory illnesses can all cause severe illness. We ask that everyone ages 2 and older wear a mask in indoor public spaces. This includes transit, retail, event venues, schools, and worksites when around others. Now is the time to mask!

YOU* MUST wear a mask:

- **In healthcare settings.**
- **In congregate care facilities**, such as long-term care settings and adult/senior care facilities.
- **In any other location where it is the policy of the business or venue.**
- **If you have COVID-19.** You must wear a [highly protective mask](#) (even at home) when you are around others until you end [isolation](#). If you are eligible to end isolation after Day 5 because you have a negative test result, it is strongly recommended that you continue to wear a mask through Day 10. In workplace settings, you must wear a mask through Day 10.
- **If you are a [close contact](#) to someone with COVID-19.** You must wear a [highly protective mask](#) when you are around others indoors for 10 days after your last day of exposure.
- **If there has been a recent outbreak** at your workplace or the congregate setting where you live.

During this winter surge, PLEASE wear a mask

(See *You must wear a mask* above for situations when masks are required)

- **On all forms of public transit**, including trains, buses, shuttle buses, taxis, ride-shares, and medical transport.
- **In all transportation hubs**, including airport and bus terminals, train and subway stations, seaports or other indoor port terminals, or any other indoor area that serves as a transportation hub
- **In state and local correctional facilities and detention centers**
- **Homeless and emergency shelters**
- **In all other indoor public settings, businesses, government offices, childcare, TK-12 schools, and higher education settings.**
- **Note: If you are [at risk for severe illness](#) it is especially important to wear a [highly protective mask](#) when you are in a higher risk setting.** These include any of the “three Cs”:

 - Closed spaces with poor air flow
 - Crowded places with many people nearby, and
 - Close contact settings especially where people are talking (or breathing heavily) close together.

No one can be prevented from wearing a mask to participate in an activity or enter a business.

Note: When masks are required, you are allowed to take off your mask while you are:

- Actively eating or drinking.
- Alone in a separate room or space.
- Showering or swimming.
- Receiving medical, dental, cosmetic, personal hygiene or personal care services (like a facial or shave) that cannot be done without removing your mask.
- Receiving or providing a speech, occupational or language therapy session where temporary removal of the mask is necessary, as determined by the therapy provider.

*There are some people who should not wear a mask, such as children younger than 2, people with certain medical conditions or disabilities, and people instructed by their medical provider not to wear a mask. See [Who should not wear a mask](#) and [Special considerations for persons with communication difficulties or certain disabilities](#) for details and information on alternative types of face coverings.

To learn more about types of masks and rules and recommendations in LA County, visit ph.lacounty.gov/masks.

