



COVID-19: UPDATED MASKING GUIDELINES for community settings



WHY WEARING A MASK CONTINUES TO BE IMPORTANT:

- It is important to continue practicing all public health measures recommended by local public health authorities, including individual measures, such as wearing a mask. This is because:
 - no vaccine is 100% effective;
 - fully vaccinated individuals can still be infected and transmit the COVID-19 virus
 - however, this is less likely to occur among fully vaccinated individuals than for those who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated
- as it gets colder and when more of our activities move indoors, we may come into closer contact with others outside of our household.

When layered with other recommended public health measures, a well-constructed, well-fitting and properly worn mask can help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

WHEN TO WEAR A NON-MEDICAL MASK:

- Make wearing a mask part of your regular routine.
- Follow local public health advice on when you should wear a mask.
- Whether you're vaccinated or not, you should consider wearing one in shared spaces with people from outside of your immediate household.
- Masks are strongly recommended in any crowded setting, including settings with vaccination requirements.

SITUATIONS FOR MEDICAL MASK USE IN THE COMMUNITY:

- anyone who has tested positive for or has symptoms of COVID-19
- people caring for someone who has tested positive or has symptoms of COVID-19
- people who live in an overcrowded setting with someone who has tested positive or has symptoms of COVID-19
- people who are at risk of more severe disease or outcomes from COVID-19
- people who are at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 because of their living situation

Individuals in the above situations could also consider using a respirator.

