

Masking and COVID-19 in California: When Should You Wear a Mask?

Wearing a well-fitting face mask with good filtration is an effective way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

- **Masking in indoor public places is required for unvaccinated individuals** and recommended for all individuals when risk may be high.
- **Universal masking is also required in specific settings** such as health care facilities, shelters, schools and on all public transportation, outlined below.
- **Some exceptions apply**, such as for children under two years old and individuals with certain medical conditions.

Learn how to [Get the Most Out of Masking](#). Read the state's [full masking guidance](#).



Wear a Mask on All Public Transportation – and Places like Schools, Healthcare Settings and Shelters

- Wear a mask on public transportation and in transportation hubs (airports, planes, trains, buses, stations, etc.) – regardless of your vaccination status.
- Masks are also required for everyone working, attending or living in healthcare settings (including long-term care facilities), as well as K-12 schools, childcare, other youth settings, correctional facilities, detention centers, homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling centers.
- Workers must also follow Cal/OSHA rules.
- Surgical masks or higher-level respirators (e.g., N95s, KN95s, KF94s) with good fit are highly recommended.

Other Things to Consider:

- Follow all local health rules, which may be more restrictive than statewide rules.
- You cannot be denied service or entry if you choose to wear a mask.
- When choosing a mask – choose a good one. Choose a well-fitting respirator mask (N95, KN95, KF94) if possible. A surgical mask combined with a cloth mask on top is also a good option.



Scan here to read all the Masking Guidelines.

