

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Conditions and Environments Requiring Universal Masking for the Prevention of COVID-19 on and after May 19, 2021

Introduction

In the interest of primary prevention of COVID-19 disease, Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 13A has directed the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop a list of situational conditions and environments where universal masking (i.e., the use of a face-covering mask by all individuals, regardless of vaccination status) should continue beyond May 19, 2021. An appropriate face-covering mask is one that includes multiple layers of tightly woven or melt-blown material, is worn directly on the face, completely covers the nose and mouth, and fits closely without significant gaps between the mask and face.

Nothing herein alters any obligations under federal or state law that establishes requirements for the use of masks or other personal protective equipment in such settings.

Subject to the exemption provided in Executive Order No. 13A, all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, shall wear a face-covering mask at all times when:

1. Inside PreK-12 public or non-public (e.g., "private", "independent", "boarding", etc.) school buildings, excluding residential dormitories, when students are present (e.g., fully vaccinated custodians or office staff do not need to wear a mask when in a school building on a weekend or after hours when students are not present inside the building).
 - a. Mask usage by participants, staff and officials in interscholastic and youth sports in school buildings shall be in accord with the *DPH Updated Guidance for the Operation of Interscholastic, Youth and other Amateur Sport Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic*.
 - b. School officials may modify mask usage to the specific circumstances and requirements set for the in the Connecticut State Department of Education *Addendums* to the *Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together*.
2. Inside licensed childcare facilities, including youth camps;
3. In any areas accessible by patients or clients* inside a licensed healthcare facility, or other healthcare setting, including, but not limited to:



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- a. hospitals, outpatient clinics, nursing homes (in compliance with, and as required by, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), assisted living services agencies and other institutions as defined in Conn. Gen. Statutes Section 19a-490;
 - b. outpatient healthcare settings, including doctors' offices, urgent care centers, dental offices, physical/occupational therapy offices, chiropractic offices, medical spas and blood-collection facilities;
 - c. clinical laboratories as defined in Conn. Gen. Statutes Section 19a-30; and
 - d. congregate living settings, including residential care homes and group homes, when healthcare or supportive services are being provided;
4. Inside homeless shelters or other shelters, such as temporary shelter operations;
5. Inside correctional facilities or detention centers;
6. In indoor waiting areas at transportation hubs or stops, including, but not limited to, airports, train stations, bus stations, ferry slips, taxi stands, including in outside fully enclosed bus stop-type shelters, or as passengers using intrastate transportation services**, including, but not limited to:
- a. buses, including school buses;
 - b. trains;
 - c. rideshare vehicles, or any privately hired transportation vehicles (e.g. Uber, Lyft, taxis, livery, etc.); and
 - d. ferries.

*Patients or clients in these settings can remove masks when they are alone in an examining room, when in rooms by themselves or socially distanced from others, when the procedures or services being provided require the removal of such mask, or when the patient/client is unable to tolerate masking due to clinical status.

**If a transport conveyance (e.g. a ferry) or a transportation hub has outdoor areas, travelers are not required to wear a mask in such outdoor areas. It is recommended that travelers who are not fully vaccinated continue to wear a mask in these areas and maintain physical distance when traveling.

Ordered this 22nd day of November 2021.

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