

# 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 February 28, 2022

#### Introduction

Special Act No 22-1 extended section 1 of Executive Order No. 13A until June 30, 2022. Section 1 of said order directs the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health to issue a rule setting forth a comprehensive list of facilities, venues, and other locations where masks and cloth face coverings are required, including for people who are vaccinated, and will amend said rule as the Commissioner determines is warranted by public health conditions. Based upon the public health conditions in the State at this time, the use of an appropriate face-covering mask is required as set forth below.

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:**

1. Inside PreK-12 public or non-public (e.g., "private", "independent", "boarding", etc.) school buildings, excluding residential dormitories, if a local or regional board of education or similar body governing a nonpublic school or schools requires the use of appropriate face-covering masks;
2. In any areas accessible by patients or clients\* inside a licensed healthcare facility, or other healthcare setting, including, but not limited to:
  - 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;



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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;

3. Inside homeless shelters or other shelters, such as temporary shelter operations.

\*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.

Ordered this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Manisha Juthani", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Manisha Juthani, MD  
Commissioner