



**Public Health Department
of Mendocino County**

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Andy Coren, MD, County Health Officer



**ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF MENDOCINO COUNTY
RESCINDING THE UNIVERSAL MASK MANDATE IN INDOOR PUBLIC SETTINGS AND
MANDATING COMPLIANCE WITH STATE'S GUIDANCE FOR USE OF FACE MASKS
WITH STRONG RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE INDOOR MASKING AT THIS TIME**

**DATE OF ORDER: March 4, 2022
EFFECTIVE UNTIL RESCINDED**

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health & Safety Code § 120275, et seq.)

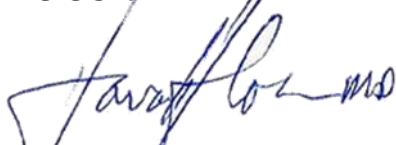
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101085, 120175, AND THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO ("HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

1. Effective immediately, the Health Officer's universal indoor masking order is rescinded. All individuals in Mendocino County must continue to comply with the State of California's Guidance for the Use of Face Masks issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on February 28, 2022, available online at (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>), including any future amendments or revisions by the CDPH, until the Guidance is rescinded or withdrawn by the State of California.
2. As indicated in the State's current Guidance, pursuant to applicable exemptions, universal indoor masking continues to be required indoors in K-12 schools and childcare (through March 11, 2022), on public transit (e.g., buses, taxis, and ride-shares), emergency shelters/cooling and heating centers, healthcare settings, local correctional facilities, homeless shelters, long term care settings and adult and senior care facilities.
3. All employers in Mendocino County must continue to comply with any applicable Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/ETS.html>) and/or the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standards (https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications/ATD-Guide.pdf). Employers may also require their employees to wear personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks, gloves, or gowns) designed to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in accordance with California Department of Fair Employment and Housing Guidance (https://www.dfeh.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2020/03/DFEH-Employment-Information-on-COVID-19-FAQ_ENG.pdf). Additionally, employers must also provide face coverings to employees upon request, regardless of their vaccination status.
4. The Health Officer issued a universal indoor masking order beginning in October, 2021, with updates in January, 2022, after Mendocino County and statewide trends indicated an increase in COVID-19 cases due to the emergence of the Omicron variant. The County

continues to be an area, defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), with “High Community Transmission” risk, based on 7 day metrics and as indicated in the community transmission level 8.17% test positivity and 234 cases reported therein, as of the drafting of this Order. However, the availability of staffed ICU and hospital beds have improved and the necessity of a universal mask mandate to protect our hospital capacity is no longer needed. Therefore, by this Order the Health Officer has changed the universal mask mandate to a strong recommendation, consistent with the State of California, CDPH.

5. The COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the US have been shown to be highly safe and extremely effective at providing protection to individuals and communities, particularly against severe COVID-19 disease and death, and are recommended by the CDC for all populations for whom the vaccine is authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration. The Health Officer strongly recommends that all eligible persons in the County be vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19.
6. The use of face coverings indoors is the least disruptive and most immediately impactful measure to protect individuals in addition to vaccination, staying home if sick, avoiding large indoor gatherings, and increasing indoor ventilation. Masks remain highly effective in preventing COVID-19 as well as other viral illnesses as indicated by the CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) which finds that face masks or respirators (N95/KN95s) effectively filter virus-sized particles and recommends their use in indoor public settings for prevention of COVID-19.
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106e1.htm?s_cid=mm7106e1_w
7. Based on the foregoing, the Health Officer rescinds the universal mask mandate for indoor settings, but continues to strongly recommend masking (regardless of vaccination status) in indoor public settings and businesses (e.g., retail, restaurants, theaters, family entertainment centers, meetings, state and local government offices serving the public). The Health Officer reiterates that no person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a business.
8. This order takes effect upon release and may be rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.
9. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County of Mendocino Executive Office, County Administration Building, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, California 95482, (2) posted on the County website, www.mendocinocounty.org, and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Dr. Howard A. Coren, M.D.,
Mendocino County Health Officer

Dated: March 4, 2022