

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UPDATED MASKING GUIDANCE FOR MICHIGANDERS

March 2, 2022

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recognizes the importance of adjusting mask recommendations as we cycle through periods of readiness, response, and recovery. MDHHS encourages Michiganders to continue to wear masks whenever they feel better protected and to protect others who are more vulnerable.

When should I wear a mask?

Current masking recommendations are available in [Updated Masking Guidance for Michiganders](#).

There are some situations when you should wear a mask around others:

- While in COVID-19 isolation or quarantine.
- When in high-risk congregate settings (such as long-term care and health care facilities, jails, correctional facilities, and shelters).
- When local masking guidance, policies and/or orders from local health departments, organizations, businesses, event organizers and/or school districts requires masking.
- The [CDC requires](#) that all persons wear masks on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation, **except for those operated by schools and child care programs.**

You may also **choose** to wear a mask even if you do not fit into the above categories. Your reasons for choosing a mask may be related to your health, the health of those around you, the level of risk you are willing to tolerate, or a sense of consideration for those around you who may be vulnerable. MDHHS supports those who wish to continue masking whatever their reasons may be.

Are there other situations in which masking may be a good idea?

MDHHS encourages individuals and families to wear a mask as an additional tool anytime they want to increase their protection against COVID-19. Individuals may want to mask to protect themselves or vulnerable individuals around them. MDHHS supports the right of individuals to choose to continue to wear a mask if they wish.

What does this change mean for schools and child care regarding masking?

While not all community settings may be considered “high-risk,” the following settings should consider their unique population and local COVID-19 transmission. School districts and child care facilities should consider [local conditions](#) and work with their local health department to determine mask requirements for school and school-related activities.

- **K-12 School Settings**

Students, families, and staff should mask in school settings based on family risk factors and local policies.

Masking continues to be recommended in indoor settings for those who may have heightened individual risk factors or for individuals who work or live with someone who is at [greater risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19](#).

- **Child Care Facilities and Settings**


MDHHS continues to recommend masking for licensed child care facilities and for organizations that provide services to individuals who are not yet able to be vaccinated, such as children under the age of 5.

How can I determine my individual and family risk?

Masks are an important tool in mitigating spread of COVID-19. Michiganders should consider their individual and family members’ risk factors and vaccination status when making the decision whether to mask. Those with chronic illness or who are immunocompromised are at higher risk for poor outcomes from COVID and would benefit most from masking in indoor and crowded outdoor settings. These risk factors may include age, medical conditions, and vaccination status.

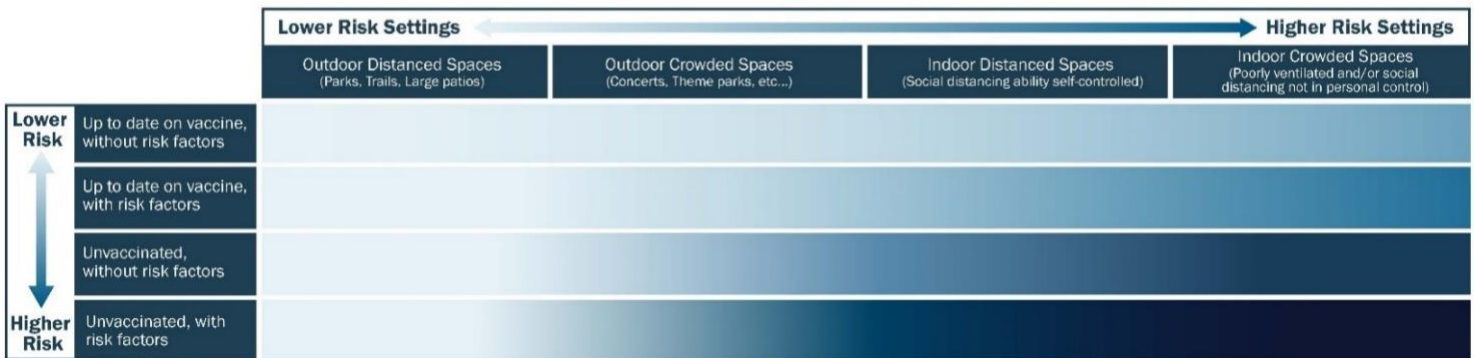
Understanding Personal and Household Risk

Protect yourself from COVID-19 by understanding levels of risk, practicing good hygiene and hand washing, staying home when sick, and staying up to date with vaccinations. Masking is a personal and local community choice. Know your risk; know that others may have a risk different from yours. Respect the choice.




Masking is a proven way to reduce your risk of COVID-19.

When making decisions about risk, consider the setting, your vaccination status and current level of community transmission in addition to the personal and family risk factors* noted below.



Up to Date on vaccine includes any booster doses as defined by the CDC. Additionally, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days would fall into similar risk categories as those who are up to date on vaccination.

* **Risk factors** include older adults (60+) and those who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes or lung disease (at any age), and those who live in high-risk congregate settings (like nursing homes, corrections facilities and shelters). If you live with others who have risk factors, consider their health in addition to your personal health.



Visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus for current COVID-19 information.

View the risk graphic online: [Understanding Personal and Household Risk](#)

How can I determine what the transmission level in my community is?

COVID-19 Community Levels can help communities and individuals make decisions based on the spread of COVID-19 in their community. Check your county's [COVID-19 Community Level](#).

Why do I need to wear a mask in congregate settings?

Research and data show these settings provide greater risk for sustained transmission and most frequently provide residences, resources, and services to vulnerable populations.

Who does wearing a mask protect?

The use of a [well-fitting mask provides benefits and protection](#) to both the wearer and to those in close contact to the wearer – especially if others are also wearing well-fitting masks. Masks help reduce inhalation of potential virus droplets for the wearer (filtration) as well as to decrease possibility of transmission of virus to those close by the wearer (source control). Wear a mask with the best fit, protection, and comfort to you.