

## Public Health Order – August 18<sup>th</sup> 2021

### **MASKS INDOORS**

Under this Public Health Order, the re-implemented mask requirement applies to all individuals age 2 years and older in all indoor public settings – except when eating or drinking.

- Beginning Friday August 20, 2021, unless a healthcare provider instructs otherwise, all individuals age 2 years and older shall wear a mask or multilayer cloth face covering in all indoor public settings except when eating or drinking. Nothing in this Public Health Order shall be construed as prohibiting any business, house of worship, non-profit entity, or other entity from imposing more stringent requirements. The masking provision in Section (1) of the July 30, 2021, Public Health Order shall remain in effect until Friday August 20, 2021.
- Any business, establishment, or non-profit (other than those which are a healthcare operation, utility, or indigent care services) which members of the public regularly visit must report to the New Mexico Environment Department when there is an occurrence of a rapid response. The New Mexico Environment Department shall monitor when an entity has four (4) or more rapid responses within a fourteen (14) day period. For purposes of this directive, rapid responses will be counted on a rolling basis. Businesses, establishments, or non-profits with four or more rapid responses shall not be required to cease operations. However, the rapid responses must be reported to the Environment Department so that the public may be made aware of the positive cases.
- All businesses, establishments, and non-profit entities must adhere to the pertinent COVID-Safe Practices.
- Businesses, houses of worship and other entities may enact stricter requirements at their discretion.

**The Public Health Order regarding masks in indoor settings is [here](#).**

### **VACCINES REQUIRED IN HIGH-RISK SETTINGS**

Under this Public Health Order, all workers in New Mexico hospitals and congregate care facilities are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with only limited exceptions.

- "Congregate care facility" means nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult day cares, hospice facilities, rehabilitation facilities, State correctional facilities, juvenile justice facilities, residential treatment centers, the New Mexico State Veterans' Home, and community homes.
- "Congregate care facility worker" means any paid or unpaid individuals working in a congregate care facility. This includes workers providing services who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or residents in a congregate care facility. A congregate care facility worker includes contractors who perform services on-site at the congregate care facility.

- “Hospital workers” are defined in the public health order as all paid and unpaid individuals who work in any public, profit or nonprofit hospital in a setting where care is provided to patients or where patients have access. This includes workers who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients and includes -- but is not limited to -- nurses, physicians, nursing assistants, technicians, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, students and trainees, contractual staff and those including clerical and security personnel who may not be directly involved in patient care but who could be exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted in the hospital.
- Unvaccinated individuals who do not qualify for an exemption must receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine within 10 days of August 17, and their second dose within 40 days of their first dose. Those individuals must provide documentation to their supervisor or the operator of the facility in which they contract or work.
- The limited exemptions for hospital and congregate care facility workers include having a qualifying medical condition, a disability requiring separate accommodation, or a sincerely held religious belief. If applicable, please see the Public Health Order language on how to be eligible for an exemption.
- Anyone granted an exemption by the operator of a hospital or congregate care facility must provide adequate proof of that they have tested negative for COVID-19 on a weekly basis and wear a mask or multilayer cloth face covering at all times indoors at the hospital or congregate care facility except when eating or drinking.