

Masking and COVID-19 in California: When is Masking Recommended? When is it Required?

Masking is still an important tool to help protect you and your family from COVID-19.

- California uses the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Community Levels to inform statewide masking recommendations. Californians can reference the [CDC COVID-19 Community Levels](#) to decide which prevention actions (including masking) to use depending on if their community is in the low, medium, or high risk level.
- Masking is required at all times in healthcare facilities.
- Masking is required in shelters and detention centers when CDC Community Levels are medium or high.
- Workers must also follow Cal/OSHA rules for when masks are required in a work environment.



Other Things to Consider:

- Follow all local health rules, which may be more restrictive than statewide rules.
- You cannot be denied service or entry if you choose to wear a mask.
- When choosing a mask – choose a good one. Choose a well-fitting respirator mask (N95, KN95, KF94) if possible. A surgical mask combined with a cloth mask on top is also a good option.
- Learn how to [Get the Most Out of Masking](#). Read the state's [full masking guidance](#).



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