



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Background

Benita McLarin, FACHE
DIRECTOR

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Lisa M. Santora, MD, MPH
DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

3240 Kerner Boulevard
San Rafael, CA 94901
415 473 4163 T
415 473 2326 F
415 473 3232 TTY
marinhhs.org/public-health

With the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Marin County and California, the approach to masking is changing. **Effective April 3, 2023**, Marin County Public Health is aligning with California Department of Public Health guidance. The state will no longer require masking in high-risk settings, such as hospitals. Institutions will create and enforce their own policies.

For the general public, Marin County masking recommendations will be based on Marin COVID Levels. Residents can use local COVID levels to decide which prevention measures to use based on their own risk for severe illness and that of members of their household, their risk tolerance, and setting-specific factors.

[Marin COVID Levels](#) are based on the amount of virus in local wastewater, which is an indicator of virus transmission rates, and the number of people with COVID infection in local hospitals.

Regardless of the COVID-19 community levels, Marin County Public Health recommends:

- Wear a mask around others if you have respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, runny nose, and/or sore throat),
- Consider wearing a mask in indoor areas of public transportation (such as in airplanes, trains, buses, ferries) and transportation hubs (such as airports, train and bus stations).
- When choosing to wear a mask, ensure your mask provides the best [fit and filtration](#) (N95, KN95 and KN94 masks are best).
- If you've had a significant exposure to someone with COVID-19, wearing a mask for 10 days is recommended.

Marin COVID Levels and Mask Guidance

Marin COVID Level	Marin Public Health Recommendations for General Public	Marin Public Health Recommendations in Indoor High-Risk Settings**
<p>Low</p> <p>There is lower community spread and impact on healthcare system of COVID-19</p>	<p>Everyone:</p> <p>People can wear a mask based on personal preference, informed by their own personal level of risk.</p> <p>Vulnerable people*1:</p> <p>Consider wearing a mask in crowded indoor public places.</p> <p>If you are a vulnerable person* or live with a vulnerable person*, consider taking additional precautions.</p>	<p>For all staff and residents/patients:</p> <p>Wearing a mask should be considered.</p>
<p>Medium</p> <p>There is medium community spread and impact on healthcare system of COVID-19</p>	<p>Everyone:</p> <p>Consider wearing a mask in indoor public places.</p> <p>Vulnerable people*:</p> <p>Wearing a mask is recommended in crowded indoor public places.</p> <p>If you have household or social contact with a vulnerable person*, wearing a mask is recommended when indoors with them</p>	<p>For all staff and residents/patients:</p> <p>Wearing a mask is recommended.</p>
<p>High</p> <p>There is high community spread and impact on healthcare system of COVID-19</p>	<p>Everyone:</p> <p>Wearing a mask is recommended in indoor public places.</p> <p>Vulnerable people*:</p> <p>Wearing a mask is strongly recommended in indoor public places.</p> <p>If you have household or social contact with a vulnerable person*, wearing a mask is recommended when indoors with them.</p>	<p>For all staff and residents/patients:</p> <p>Wearing a mask is strongly recommended.</p>

*Those that are vulnerable include the unvaccinated, those that are [immunocompromised](#), have certain [disabilities](#), or have [underlying health conditions](#), and those [at risk of severe illness of death if they are infected with COVID-19](#). Such persons should consider taking extra precautions

**High-risk settings include the following: Healthcare Settings, Long Term Care Settings & Adult and Senior Care Facilities, Homeless shelters, Emergency shelters and cooling and warming centers, State and local correctional facilities and detention centers

No person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a venue or business (including schools or childcare), unless wearing a mask would pose a safety hazard. All businesses and venue operators are encouraged to improve ventilation and air quality in their facility to prevent airborne respiratory infections and improve indoor air quality.

Recommendations

1. Residents, healthcare providers and facilities should review and implement updated [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Masks](#).
2. Stay up to date on [Marin COVID levels](#) to inform personal protective measures (e.g., masking) and institutional infection prevention and control measures.