

APPENDIX B

CURRENT SCHOOL MASK MANDATES (BY STATE)

State-by-state comparison. As of August 31, 2021, below is a summary of the mask mandate policies for each state.²³³,²³⁴ The states are listed in alphabetical order and demonstrate a wide variety of public health policies.

- 1. Alabama.** Alabama's mask mandate expired on April 9. The state's latest COVID-19 public health order encourages but does not require residents to wear masks within 6 feet of someone from another household. Municipal mask mandates in Birmingham and Montgomery expired in May.²³⁵
- 2. Alaska.** Alaska's Department of Health Social Services "strongly encourages the wearing of masks in public," but the state has not required it. Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, ended its face-covering order in May; the capital of Juneau continues to mandate masking for unvaccinated people in indoor public spaces and large crowds outdoors.²³⁶
- 3. Arizona.** Governor Doug Ducey issued an executive order on March 25, lifting all state COVID-19 restrictions on businesses and barring cities and counties from enforcing mask mandates except in government buildings and on public transit. Previously, Arizona

²³³ This is a recent report with updated listings for each state mask mandate: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/these-are-the-states-with-mask-mandates>

²³⁴ This report includes school mask policies and school district variations by state: <https://districtadministration.com/track-school-mask-rules-requirements-state-by-state/>

²³⁵ Read Alabama's new "Safer Apart" health order.

²³⁶ Read the Alaska health department's mask guidance.

required face-covering for employees and customers of barbers and cosmetologists, and several jurisdictions, including the state's largest counties, had full mask orders in place.²³⁷

4. **Arkansas.** Governor Asa Hutchinson lifted his 8-month-old mask mandate on March 31, saying the state had met targets for COVID-19 case counts set out several weeks earlier as a basis for rescinding the order. Health officials continue to recommend that Arkansans wear masks in public when unable to maintain 6 feet of distance from people outside their households. A new state law set to take effect this summer bars local governments from imposing mask mandates.²³⁸
5. **California.** Face-covering is required statewide for unvaccinated individuals in indoor public settings and workplaces and all people aged 2 and over in schools, health care, long-term care facilities, correctional facilities, homeless and emergency shelters, and public transit. Several of the state's largest jurisdictions have reinstated local indoor mask mandates covering all residents, regardless of vaccination status, including Los Angeles County, San Francisco, six surrounding Bay Area counties, and Sacramento County.²³⁹
6. **Colorado.** Governor Jared Polis announced an end to Colorado's mandate on May 14, saying the state is shifting from “mask-wearing requirements to mask-wearing suggestions,” particularly for unvaccinated people in indoor settings. Face-covering may still be required for those without proof of vaccination in some settings, including medical facilities and prisons.²⁴⁰

²³⁷ Read Ducey's order ending COVID-19 restrictions.

²³⁸ Read the Arkansas health department's mask guidance.

²³⁹ Read California's updated state face-covering guidance.

²⁴⁰ Read the Colorado health department's updated mask guidance.

- 7. Connecticut.** Masks are required for unvaccinated people age 2 and over in indoor public places and for all people in school buildings, health care facilities, group residential settings such as nursing homes and prisons, and on public transit. The city of New Haven instituted an indoor mask mandate covering both vaccinated and unvaccinated people on Aug. 9, four days after Governor Ned Lamont signed an executive order allowing local governments to impose rules more stringent than the state's.²⁴¹
- 8. Delaware.** Governor John Carney lifted Delaware's general mask order on May 21. The state continues to require face-covering in schools, state-owned buildings, and settings where the CDC recommends maintaining mask rules, such as public transit and healthcare facilities. Otherwise, masking is recommended for unvaccinated and partially vaccinated Delawareans in public places.²⁴²
- 9. District of Columbia.** Mayor Muriel Bowser dropped the District's exemption for fully vaccinated individuals amid a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases. As of July 31, masks are required in indoor public places for all people over age 2, whether vaccinated or not. Face-covering is also required for all residents in schools, healthcare facilities, district government buildings, and public transit.²⁴³
- 10. Florida.** Florida recommends but has not required face coverings for the general public. Several cities and large counties, including Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Hillsborough (Tampa), had mask requirements. Still, Governor Ron DeSantis issued an executive order

²⁴¹ Read Connecticut's current mask guidance.

²⁴² Read Delaware's updated mask policy.

²⁴³ Read the D.C. health department's mask guidance (which has not yet been updated to reflect new mandate).

on May 3 that barred local governments and school systems from imposing COVID-19 restrictions, including mask rules.²⁴⁴

11. Georgia. The governor's office and the state Department of Public Health recommend masking in public to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Governor Brian Kemp sought last summer to bar local mask mandates but eased his order in August 2020 to allow cities and counties to impose limited face-covering rules. Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced on July 28 that the city is reinstating mask requirements for all people in public settings indoors.²⁴⁵

12. Hawaii. Governor David Ige lifted the state's outdoor mask mandate on May 25. Hawaii's amended mask directive still requires residents ages 5 and up to wear a face-covering in most indoor public settings. It requires businesses to refuse admission or service to maskless patrons in most circumstances.²⁴⁶

13. Idaho. Idaho's latest "Stay Healthy Guidelines," dated May 11, recommends that employers determine how masks and other protective gear "may be required" in their places of business. Boise, Idaho's capital and largest city, dropped its mask mandate in May, as did several other jurisdictions. Governor Brad Little signed an executive order on May 28 restoring local governments' authority to make their own mask rules, reversing a move by Lt. Governor Janice McGeachin to strip such local control in an order she issued while Little was at a conference out of state.²⁴⁷

²⁴⁴ Read Florida's order barring local mask mandates.

²⁴⁵ Read the Georgia Department of Public Health's COVID-19 guidance.

²⁴⁶ Read Hawaii's amended face-covering order.

²⁴⁷ Read Idaho's updated COVID-19 health guidelines.

14. **Illinois.** Chicago is reinstituting a citywide indoor mask mandate covering all ages 2 and over starting Aug. 20, 2021. Masks are required for unvaccinated people in indoor public settings and outdoors when unable to maintain 6 feet of distance from others, and for all people in state government buildings; schools, and day-care centers; "congregate facilities" such as nursing homes, homeless shelters, and prisons; health care facilities; and public transit vehicles and hubs.²⁴⁸

15. **Indiana.** The state's 8-month-old mask mandate became a "mask advisory" on April 6. Hoosiers age 8 and up are encouraged to wear masks in all indoor public settings and outdoors when they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance from others. Face-covering remains mandatory in state buildings, K-12 schools, and at COVID-19 vaccination and testing sites. Local mask orders in Indianapolis and surrounding Marion County expired on June 7.²⁴⁹

16. **Iowa.** Governor Kim Reynolds lifted the state's mask mandate on Feb. 7, issuing a new emergency order that drops rules on face-covering and social distancing in favor of encouraging "reasonable public health measures" to reduce COVID-19 transmission in public places and private gatherings. Reynolds signed legislation May 20 restricting schools' and local governments' authority to require masks.²⁵⁰

17. **Kansas.** Kansas lawmakers revoked the state's mask requirement on April 1, hours after Governor Laura Kelly issued an executive order²⁵¹ intended to extend it. In March, a state law gave a panel of top legislators authority to overturn the governor's emergency orders. Kansas had a statewide mask rule in place for nine months, but it was not uniformly

²⁴⁸ Read the Illinois Department of Public Health's mask guidance.

²⁴⁹ Read Governor Eric Holcomb's executive order relaxing mask rules.

²⁵⁰ Read Iowa's latest public health order and mask guidance.

²⁵¹ <https://governor.kansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/EO-21-14-Executed.pdf>

enforced due to another state law curbing Kelly's emergency powers, which allowed counties to opt-out of the mandate.²⁵²

18. Kentucky. Kentucky's general mask mandate ended June 11, along with the state's remaining COVID-19 health restrictions. Masks are still required for people over age 5 in specific settings, including schools and child-care centers, medical and long-term care facilities, prisons, homeless shelters, and public transit.²⁵³

19. Louisiana. Face-covering is required in indoor public places for all people age 5 and older, regardless of vaccination status. Governor John Bel Edwards cited Louisiana's "insufficient vaccination rate" and rapid rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in reinstating the state mask order three months after it was lifted. The mandate will be in effect until at least Sept. 1.²⁵⁴

20. Maine. As of May 24, "Maine is no longer requiring masks in most settings," according to the state's face-covering FAQs. Under Governor Janet Mills' latest face-covering order, people ages 5 and older must mask up indoors at schools and child-care facilities. The state continues to recommend masking for people who are not yet fully vaccinated.²⁵⁵

21. Maryland. Governor Larry Hogan ended Maryland's statewide mask mandate and all other COVID-19 emergency orders on July 1. Masking remains the rule on public transportation and in transit hubs, per a federal mandate. The city of Baltimore and Montgomery County

²⁵² Read the Kansas health department's [mask guidance](#).

²⁵³ Read a statement from Governor Andy Beshear's office on [lifting COVID-19 restrictions](#).

²⁵⁴ Read Louisiana's [new mask mandate](#).

²⁵⁵ Read [Maine's mask FAQs](#).

outside Washington, D.C., have re-imposed local orders requiring most people, vaccinated or not, to wear face coverings in indoor public settings.²⁵⁶

22. Massachusetts. The state's general face-covering order was lifted on May 29 and replaced with an advisory recommending that people not fully vaccinated mask up in public places. Masks are still required for people age 5 and older in some settings, including K-12 schools, health care, and long-term care facilities, emergency shelters, prisons, and public transportation.²⁵⁷

23. Michigan. Michigan's mask mandate ended June 22, along with all COVID-related capacity limits on gatherings. The state had already lifted mask orders for fully vaccinated Michiganders in indoor public places and all people outdoors. Face-covering will still be required to "protect vulnerable populations" in long-term care facilities, prisons, and housing for farmworkers.²⁵⁸

24. Minnesota. Governor Tim Walz ended the state's mask mandate on May 14, moving up his timetable in response to the CDC guidelines. He had previously announced plans to lift the order July 1 if at least 70 percent of Minnesota's 16-and-older population was vaccinated. Masks are still required in schools and child care settings. Minneapolis and St. Paul lifted municipal indoor mask orders on June 1 and 2, respectively.²⁵⁹

25. Mississippi. Governor Tate Reeves lifted Mississippi's statewide mask requirement on September 30, 2020, about two months after it was imposed. He subsequently issued a new order mandating masks in counties with high COVID-19 case rates in indoor public

²⁵⁶ Read a statement and FAQs from the governor's office on ending Maryland's emergency orders.

²⁵⁷ Read Massachusetts' updated guidance on face-covering.

²⁵⁸ Read Governor Gretchen Whitmer's June 17 announcement on rescinding COVID restrictions.

²⁵⁹ Read the governor's announcement on lifting the mask order.

settings. That directive, which eventually covered most of the state, expired on March 3. Face-covering is still required at K-12 schools.²⁶⁰

26. Missouri. The state Department of Health and Senior Services recommends that all people age 2 and older mask up in public to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The city and county of St. Louis reimposed a local mask mandate on July 26, covering all people age 5 and over in indoor public places, regardless of vaccination status. A similar order took effect in Kansas City on Aug. 2.²⁶¹

27. Montana. Governor Greg Gianforte rescinded the state's mask mandate on Feb. 12. In July, the previous order, issued by then-Governor Steve Bullock, directed Montana residents age 5 and up to wear masks in indoor public spaces and at outdoor gatherings where social distancing could not be maintained. Gianforte signed legislation in May invalidating local mask mandates, effectively ending face-covering orders in Gallatin, Missoula, and other counties.²⁶²

28. Nebraska. Masks are required for both clients and staff at barbershops, salons, and other personal-care businesses. They are recommended for restaurant employees and the general population when in public. Broader local mask orders in Lincoln and Omaha were lifted in May.²⁶³

29. Nevada. Nevada ended most face-covering requirements for fully vaccinated people in May in accordance with a directive from Governor Steve Sisolak aligning state policy with CDC mask guidance. With the federal agency's new recommendations, Sisolak amended

²⁶⁰ Read Mississippi's mask order repeal.

²⁶¹ Read the Missouri health department's COVID-19 prevention guidance.

²⁶² Read a statement from the governor's office on lifting the mask mandate.

²⁶³ Read the Nebraska health department's COVID-19 guidance for the public.

the state order to require indoor masking for all people over age 9, regardless of vaccination status, in counties with substantial or high COVID-19 transmission rates. The new mandate took effect July 30 and covers 12 of Nevada's 16 counties — including Clark County, home to Las Vegas — and the independent capital, Carson City.²⁶⁴

30. New Hampshire. Governor Chris Sununu allowed the state's mask mandate to expire on April 16, six months after implementation. With the risk of COVID-19 transmission declining, the state Department of Public Health updated its face-covering guidance on June 17, saying people who are not showing symptoms "can choose to go without face masks in most indoor and outdoor locations, regardless of vaccination status." Masking is still encouraged for immunocompromised people or those at high risk of infection when in crowds indoors.²⁶⁵

31. New Jersey. The state's general face-covering order was lifted on May 28, along with many COVID-19 restrictions. Masking is encouraged in public places for people who are not fully vaccinated and required for all those over age 2 in schools, child-care centers, summer camps, state offices, and sites where the CDC mandates masking, such as health care facilities and on public transit. Masks are also required for unvaccinated employees in workplaces that are not open to the public.²⁶⁶

32. New Mexico. Effective Aug. 20, New Mexicans must wear face coverings in indoor public settings, regardless of their vaccination status, except when eating or drinking. The order applies to people age 2 and over and will be in force until at least Sept. 15. The new mandate

²⁶⁴ Read Nevada's [updated mask order](#).

²⁶⁵ Read New Hampshire's [latest mask guidance](#).

²⁶⁶ Read Governor Phil Murphy's executive order [lifting most COVID-19 restrictions](#).

replaces a May state health department order that required indoor masking only for individuals who were not yet fully vaccinated.²⁶⁷

33. New York.

34. North Carolina. Governor Roy Cooper ended the state's general mask mandate on May 14. Face-covering is still recommended for unvaccinated people and everyone in large venues but is only required in schools, child-care facilities, children's camps, and settings designated by the CDC for continued maskings, such as hospitals and transit hubs. Where masks are required, children under age 5 are exempt. Charlotte and Raleigh; Durham County; and Guilford County, which includes Greensboro, have instituted indoor mask mandates covering vaccinated and unvaccinated people.²⁶⁸

35. North Dakota. Gov. Doug Burgum instituted a statewide mask requirement on Nov. 14 amid a rapid rise in the state's COVID-19 case count. After extending the mandate in December, Burgum allowed it to lapse when it expired on Jan. 18, citing a decline in case numbers.²⁶⁹

36. Ohio. The state's mask mandate expired June 2 as the Ohio Department of Health lifted most other pandemic health orders. COVID-19 safety precautions remain in place in nursing homes and other group residential settings with a heightened risk of contracting the coronavirus. State officials recommend that unvaccinated people continue to wear masks indoors.²⁷⁰

²⁶⁷ Read New Mexico's new mask order.

²⁶⁸ Read North Carolina updated mask guidelines.

²⁶⁹ Read the North Dakota Department of Health's mask guidance.

²⁷⁰ Read Governor Mike DeWine's statement on ending COVID-19 health orders.

37. Oklahoma. Governor Kevin Stitt has called on Oklahomans to wear masks in public but rejected calls for a state mandate. In the state's largest cities, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, local mask mandates ended April 30 and May 1, respectively.²⁷¹

38. Oregon. As of Aug. 13, Oregonians must mask up in indoor public places, regardless of vaccination status. Six weeks after lifting Oregon's COVID-19 restrictions, Governor Kate Brown cited the delta surge in hospitalizations and a looming statewide shortage of intensive-care beds in reinstating the face-covering order.²⁷²

39. Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's mask mandate was rescinded on June 28. Face-covering is required in health care facilities, group residential settings such as long-term care facilities, prisons, homeless shelters, and on public transit, as directed by the CDC. The city of Philadelphia implemented a local mask order on Aug. 12, mandating face-covering at indoor businesses and institutions unless the establishment requires vaccination for all employees and patrons.²⁷³

40. Puerto Rico. Masks are required in public places indoors, regardless of vaccination status, by order of the territorial Department of Health, to which Governor Pedro Pierluisi ceded authority for establishing COVID-19 protocols in early July. Children under age 2 are exempt. The order took effect July 28, less than a month after the governor had lifted the mask rule for fully vaccinated individuals.²⁷⁴

41. Rhode Island. Governor Dan McKee terminated the state's mask mandate and several other COVID-19 health orders in a July 6 executive order. The Rhode Island Department

²⁷¹ Read the Oklahoma health department's COVID-19 guidance.

²⁷² Read Oregon's new mask order.

²⁷³ Read the Pennsylvania health department's mask FAQs.

²⁷⁴ Read the Puerto Rico health department's COVID-19 prevention page (Spanish).

of Health continues to recommend face-covering for people who are not fully vaccinated when indoors with people outside their household and outdoors in crowded settings.²⁷⁵

42. South Carolina. Governor Henry McMaster issued an executive order on May 11 prohibiting local governments and school districts from requiring masks, invalidating local rules in Charleston, Columbia, and other jurisdictions. The new order encourages South Carolinians who have not been fully vaccinated to wear masks in public settings but says mandates "are no longer necessary or appropriate to address and mitigate the existing public health threats."²⁷⁶

43. South Dakota. The South Dakota Department of Health recommends "wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission."²⁷⁷

44. Tennessee. In late April, Governor Bill Lee did not impose a statewide mandate and issued an executive order barring local mask orders in the 89 counties where the state directs public health policies. The six counties with independent health departments — Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Madison, Shelby, and Sullivan — have all lifted local face-covering orders.²⁷⁸

45. Texas. Governor Greg Abbott lifted the state's 8-month-old mask mandate on March 10. His new directive says Texans are "strongly encouraged" to wear masks in public, but it bars local governments from enforcing their face-covering mandates.²⁷⁹

²⁷⁵ Read the Rhode Island health department's mask guidance.

²⁷⁶ Read South Carolina's order banning mask mandates.

²⁷⁷ Read the state health department's COVID-19 information page.

²⁷⁸ Read the Tennessee health department's **mask guidance**.

²⁷⁹ Read Texas' mask order repeal.

46. Utah. Utah's 5-month-old order requiring masks in most public settings ended April 10 under state legislation that phases out various COVID-19 public health restrictions. Face-covering requirements in state government buildings and K-12 schools were lifted in May and June, respectively.²⁸⁰

47. Vermont. Governor Phil Scott lifted Vermont's mask mandate and all other COVID-19 restrictions on June 15 as the state crossed a threshold of 80 percent of eligible residents receiving at least one vaccine dose. Masks are required for all people, fully vaccinated or not, on public transportation and in health care and long-term care facilities.²⁸¹

48. Virginia. Governor Ralph Northam's order ending statewide COVID-19 restrictions took effect May 28, two weeks after he effectively lifted Virginia's universal mask mandate to align with the CDC guidance. Employees at retail stores, restaurants, gyms, and other businesses directly serving customers are still required to wear masks; patrons are encouraged to do so. Face-covering also remains the rule in schools.²⁸²

49. Washington. Since mid-May, the state has operated under the CDC guidance, eliminating most mask requirements for fully vaccinated people. Under Governor Jay Inslee's June 30 reopening order, which ended social distancing rules and business capacity limits, unvaccinated Washingtonians age 5 and over are directed to wear masks in indoor public settings and workplaces, and face-covering is universally required in schools, health care facilities, prisons, and homeless shelters.²⁸³

²⁸⁰ Read Utah's state law curbing mask mandates and other pandemic emergency orders.

²⁸¹ Read Vermont mask requirements here.

²⁸² Read Virginia's latest mask order.

²⁸³ Read the state Department of Health's updated mask order.

50. West Virginia. Governor Jim Justice signed an executive order on June 20 revoking the state's 11-month-old mask mandate. In its final weeks, the directive had covered unvaccinated people age 9 and up in indoor public spaces. Face-covering is still required in specific settings per CDC guidelines, including medical facilities and transportation hubs, and West Virginia businesses and school systems may require people to mask up.²⁸⁴

51. Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down Governor Tony Evers' mask mandate on March 31. In a 4-3 vote on a case brought by Republican state legislators, the court ruled that Evers, a Democrat, overstepped his authority by repeatedly extending pandemic-related emergency orders without lawmakers' approval. The governor had renewed the mask order several times since issuing it in August. Local face-covering rules in Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha and in Dane County, which includes Madison, were lifted between mid-May and early June.²⁸⁵

52. Wyoming. Governor Mark Gordon rescinded the state's 3-month-old mask mandate on March 16. The state health department continues to recommend mask use in public places "when common-sense physical distancing cannot be maintained."²⁸⁶

²⁸⁴ Read West Virginia's current and past face-covering orders.

²⁸⁵ Read the Wisconsin health department's mask guidance.

²⁸⁶ Read Wyoming mask requirements here.