# CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

**August 4, 2021**

# Masks Recommended for Everyone Indoors

We are currently seeing a rapid [increase in the number of COVID-19 cases](#) as well as intensified spread of the Delta variant in the region. Based on recent CDC research showing that vaccinated individuals can spread the disease if they become infected, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health is providing notice that it supports the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidance](#) recommending the use of face masks while indoors and near others, regardless of vaccination status, in areas of substantial or high transmission, which now include Cuyahoga County. This guidance applies to all individuals 2 years of age and older.

Unvaccinated individuals account for an overwhelming percentage of all hospitalizations and nearly all of the deaths associated with COVID-19 infection. Masking is necessary to slow the spread of the virus to prevent surges in new infections, which could result in greater numbers of COVID-19-related illness, hospitalizations and deaths, while also stressing healthcare capacity.

Vaccination and the use of face masks are the two best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Everyone who is eligible to be vaccinated should do so as soon as possible. Those who are vaccinated are at a much lower risk of symptomatic or severe infection that may require medical attention or hospitalization. You will find a vaccination location nearest you by visiting [Gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov.](#)

Healthcare facilities, businesses and other organizations may require masks to ensure the safety of their employees and customers based on their individual circumstances.

*Recommendations for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals include:*

- All those who are medically able to do so should wear a face mask in public indoor settings when near others, regardless of vaccination status
- The use of face masks is recommended for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status
- Get tested if experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#)
- Everyone with a known contact to someone with confirmed COVID-19 disease should get tested 3-5 days following exposure
- Isolate if you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days or are experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#)