

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

BOARD OF HEALTH

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March 7, 2022

Due to a nationwide drop in COVID-19 activity, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have introduced a risk-based decision tool to assist with decision-making about prevention and treatment measures. [The tool can be found here.](#)

According to the most recent data available from the CDC, we are pleased to share that Cuyahoga County is now at “Low Risk” for transmission. CDC guidance for “Low Risk” indicates that the general population should stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, and to get tested if symptomatic. Those at high risk for severe disease should talk to their healthcare provider about wearing a mask or taking other precautions, including testing.

As a result of this positive news, we are lifting the countywide mask advisory that was put in place to combat past surges of cases and adopting the following masking guidance for our building and field staff **effective March 7, 2022:**

- Masks are optional for most staff as long as Cuyahoga County is in the Medium or Low Risk category, per the aforementioned CDC decision tool
- All nursing and clinical staff are required to wear masks while providing direct patient care
- All staff and clients entering the clinic are required to wear a mask
- Masks are optional for all other clients entering the building

Staff are required to wear a mask when interacting with populations at high risk for severe disease or who cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19. These settings include:

- Direct care services to patient populations in clinical, home visiting, school health and dental sealant programs
- Childcare facilities
- Congregate sites such as long-term care facilities and group homes
- Buildings that require masks

We will continue to monitor the CDC risk based tool to assess Cuyahoga County’s status moving forward and update our mask policy and related policies, including our Health and Safety Plan, as necessary. Staff may choose to wear a mask for personal protection at any time in locations where they are not required. This includes the CCBH office as well as any offsite work locations.