Masking and COVID-19 in California: When Should You Wear a Mask?

Wearing a well-fitting face mask with good filtration is an effective way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

• Masking in indoor public places is strongly recommended for everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

• Universal masking is required in specific settings such as health care facilities, shelters, schools and on all public transportation, outlined below.

• Some exceptions apply, such as for children under two years old and individuals with certain medical conditions.

Learn how to Get the Most Out of Masking. Read the state’s full masking guidance.

Wear a Mask on All Public Transportation – and Places like Schools, Healthcare Settings and Shelters

• Wear a mask on public transportation and in transportation hubs (airports, planes, trains, buses, stations, etc.) – regardless of your vaccination status.

• Masks are also required for everyone working, attending or living in healthcare settings (including long-term care facilities), as well as K-12 schools, childcare, other youth settings, correctional facilities, detention centers, homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling centers.

• Workers must also follow Cal/OSHA rules.

• Surgical masks or higher-level respirators (e.g., N95s, KN95s, KF94s) with good fit are highly recommended.

Other Things to Consider:

• Follow all local health rules, which may be more restrictive that 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.