

Masks are Back in California

Article By:

Sean Paisan

Only a month ago, [Los Angeles and the Bay Area released criteria for lifting masking requirements](#) that had been in place since the summer. However, with recent increases in COVID-19 cases, California's Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a [new mandate](#) requiring masks to be worn in all indoor public settings irrespective of vaccine status, effective [December 15, 2021 through January 15, 2022](#).

The CDPH order is vague as to the meaning of "indoor public setting." However, the [CDPH Face Covering Q&A page](#), indicates certain exemptions to "universal masking" suggesting a broad definition of "indoor public setting" as has been the case with prior county and state orders.

The following are exemptions to indoor masking:

- Masks may be removed while actively eating or drinking.
- Persons who are working alone in a closed office or room.
- Persons who are actively performing at indoor live or recorded settings or events such as music, acting, or singing. If performers do not wear a mask indoors while performing, CDPH strongly recommends that individuals undergo screening testing at least once weekly. An FDA-approved antigen test, PCR test, or pooled PCR test is acceptable for evaluation of an individual's COVID-19 status.
- Persons who are obtaining a medical or cosmetic service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face-covering is necessary to perform the services.
- Workers who wear respiratory protection, per Cal/OSHA requirements.
- Persons who are specifically exempted from wearing masks by other CDPH guidance.

The CDPH also issued [updated requirements for attending mega-events](#), like concerts and sporting events, mandating proof of vaccination or a negative antigen COVID-19 test.

National Law Review, Volume XI, Number 349

Source URL: <https://natlawreview.com/article/masks-are-back-california>