

# Masking and COVID-19 in California: When is Masking Recommended? When is it Required?

**California strongly recommends masking in indoor public places, and requires masking in some settings.**

- **California strongly recommends masking in indoor public places, for everyone, including public transportation, regardless of vaccination status.**
- **Universal masking is required in specific settings such as healthcare facilities and shelters (see 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](#).

## **Universal Masking is Required in Places like Healthcare Facilities and Shelters**

- Masks are required for everyone living in, working at, or visiting healthcare settings (including long-term care facilities), as well as correctional facilities, detention centers, homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling centers.
- Workers must also follow Cal/OSHA rules.

## **Other Things to Consider:**

- Follow all local health rules, which may be more restrictive than 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.



**Scan here to read all the  
Masking Guidelines.**

