



ERIC GARCETTI  
MAYOR

**Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority**

**Issue Date: August 5, 2021**

**Subject: SAFER L.A.**

On June 15, 2021, California fully reopened the economy, and the State terminated the restrictions on businesses and activities in its Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Epidemiologic evidence demonstrates that since June 15, 2021, the rate of community transmission of COVID-19 here in Los Angeles has substantially increased. Over the past month, daily cases have increased by 740 percent. As of July 29, 2021, Los Angeles County is reporting a 7-day daily average case rate of 15.7 cases per 100,000 people without a 7-day lag. In addition, the test positivity rate and hospitalizations have also dramatically increased. Based upon federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicators and thresholds, this means that community transmission of COVID-19 within Los Angeles County is now considered High and highly likely to increase during the coming days and weeks.

Given this High level of community transmission, on July 28, 2021, the CDC and the California Department of Public Health each issued new guidance validating universal indoor masking requirements as a precautionary measure. The CDC's Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People, advises that "preliminary evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people who are infected with the Delta variant can spread the virus to others" and therefore recommends that fully vaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings in geographic areas of Substantial or High transmission. In addition, the State Public Health Officer recommends universal masking regardless of vaccination status, in public indoor settings across California.

Here in Los Angeles, COVID-19 remains a concern to public health. There are still millions of people in the County who are not yet fully vaccinated, including children under 12 years old, who are not currently eligible. Furthermore, variants of the virus that may spread more easily or cause more severe illness remain present and have increased in our County. Currently, the Delta variant is predominant in Los Angeles County. Further, recent data suggests that the immune response to COVID-19

vaccination might be reduced in some immunocompromised people, which increases their risk of serious health consequences from COVID-19 infection.

In order to continue to protect the community from COVID-19, in particular for those who are not fully vaccinated and fully vaccinated but immunocompromised persons, this Order aligns with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public (LACDPH) Health Officer Order, dated July 30, 2021, and mainly aligns with the State Public Health Officer Order, dated June 11, 2021. Further, this Order incorporates by reference the July 26, 2021 State Public Health Officer Order, which requires specific transmission prevention measures to be taken by Acute Health Care and Long-Term settings, High-Risk Congregate settings, and Other Health Care settings. The primary intent of this Order is to help slow and improve the High level of community transmission here in Los Angeles County, and to align with updated County and State requirements and recommendations.

Under the provisions of Section 231(i) of the Los Angeles City Charter and Chapter 3, Section 8.27 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, I hereby declare that the Safer L.A. Order, dated July 26, 2021, is withdrawn and superseded by this Order, which is necessary for the protection of life and property in the City of Los Angeles and is effective on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 11:59 PM:

1. All persons living within the City of Los Angeles should continue to practice required and recommended COVID-19 infection control measures at all times and when among other persons when in community, work, social or school settings, especially when multiple unvaccinated persons from different households may be present and in close contact with each other, especially when in indoor or crowded outdoor settings

## **2. Face Masks**

All individuals must follow the requirements included in this Order, the LACDPH Health Officer Order (dated July 30, 2021) and the July 28, 2021 Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings issued by the California Department of Public Health. These requirements are aligned with the July 28, 2021 recommendations issued by the CDC. The CDC recommendations provide information about both indoor and higher risk settings where masks are required or recommended to prevent transmission to:

- Persons with a higher risk of infection (e.g., unvaccinated or immunocompromised persons),
- Persons with prolonged, cumulative exposures (e.g., workers), or
- Persons whose vaccination status is unknown.

When people wear a mask correctly, they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct mask use is especially important indoors and outdoors when in close contact with (less than six feet from) others who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or whose vaccination status is unknown.

- a. Masks are required for everyone, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, in the following settings:
  - i. On public transit (examples: airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares),
  - ii. In transportation hubs (examples: airport, bus terminal, marina, train station, seaport or other port, subway station, or any other area that provides transportation),
  - iii. Indoors in K-12 schools, childcare and other youth settings. (Note: This may change as updated State K-12 school guidance is forthcoming, pending updates for K-12 operational guidance from the CDC.),
  - iv. Healthcare settings (including long-term care facilities),
  - v. State and local correctional facilities and detention centers,
  - vi. Homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling centers, and
  - vii. All indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and public and private businesses (some examples: offices, manufacturing, warehouses, retail, restaurants, theaters, family entertainment centers, meetings, and state and local government offices serving the public, among others.)
- b. Recommendation: In indoor public and private settings where there is close contact with other people who may not be fully vaccinated, individuals should consider wearing a higher level of protection, such as wearing two masks (“double masking”) or wearing a respirator (e.g., KN95 or N95). This is particularly important if an individual is not fully vaccinated and is in an indoor or crowded outdoor setting.
- c. Individuals, businesses, venue operators or hosts of public indoor settings, venues, gatherings, and businesses must:
  - i. Require all patrons and guests to wear masks when inside at all indoor settings, regardless of their vaccination status; and
  - ii. Post clearly visible and easy to read signage, with or without having an employee present, at all entry points for indoor and outdoor settings to communicate the masking requirements for patrons and guests.
- d. For clarity, patrons, customers or guests at public indoor settings, venues, gatherings, and public and private businesses are required to wear a face mask except while:

- i. Actively eating or drinking. Patrons and customers must be seated at a table or positioned at a stationary counter or place while eating or drinking indoors,
  - ii. Showering or engaging in personal hygiene or a personal care service that requires the removal of the face mask, and
  - iii. Alone in a separate room, office or interior space.
- e. Special considerations are made for people with communication difficulties or certain disabilities. Clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel that [fit well](#) are an alternative type of mask for people who interact with: people who are deaf or hard of hearing, children or students learning to read, people learning a new language, and people with disabilities.
- f. All businesses, venue operators or hosts must implement measures to clearly communicate to non-employees the masking requirements on their premises.
- g. No person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a business.
- h. The categories of persons who are exempt from mask requirements, remain unchanged at this time and can be found at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/masks/#notwear>.
- i. In workplaces, certain employees may be exempt from wearing a mask when performing specific tasks which cannot feasibly be performed while wearing a mask. This exception is limited to the period of time in which such tasks are actually being performed. Workers who cannot feasibly wear a mask while performing their work must be tested for COVID-19 at least twice per week, unless the employer is provided proof of the employee's full vaccination against COVID-19 or proof of recovery from laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days against COVID-19.

In workplaces, most employers and businesses are subject to the [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards \(ETS\)](#) and some to the [Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standards](#), and should consult those regulations for additional applicable requirements. The ETS allow local health jurisdictions to require more protective mandates. This Order, which aligns with the LACDPH Health Officer Order (dated July 30, 2021), and which requires masking of all individuals at indoor public settings and businesses regardless of vaccination status, is such a mandate in Los Angeles County, and overrides the more permissive ETS regarding employee masking.

- j. All employers and businesses subject to Cal/OSHA must review and comply with the active Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards

(ETS). As approved and effective, the full text of the COVID-19 Prevention emergency standards will be listed under [Title 8, Subchapter 7, sections 3205-3205.4](#) of the California Code of Regulations. All businesses or employers with independent contractors should also review the State Labor Commissioner's Office webpage entitled, "[Independent contractor versus employee.](#)" which discusses the "employment status" of persons hired as independent contractors, to ensure correct application of the ETS.

### **3. Mandatory Reporting by Businesses and Governmental Entities**

Persons and businesses within the County of Los Angeles Public Health Jurisdiction are required to follow the COVID-19 infection control protocols and guidance provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health regarding isolation of persons confirmed or suspected to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 disease or quarantine of those exposed to and at risk of infection from COVID-19. In instances where the County has not provided a specific guidance or protocol, specific guidance or protocols established by the State Public Health Officer shall control.

- a. In the event that an owner, manager, or operator of any business knows of three (3) or more cases of COVID-19 among their employees within a span of 14 days, the employer must report this outbreak to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health at (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821, or online at [www.redcap.link/covidreport](http://www.redcap.link/covidreport).
- b. In the event that an owner, manager, or operator of any business is informed that one or more employees, assigned or contracted workers, or volunteers of the business has tested positive for, or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (case), the employer must have a protocol to require the case(s) to isolate themselves at home and require the immediate self-quarantine of all employees that had a workplace exposure to the case(s).

### **4. LACDPH Best Practice Guidance.**

- a. All individuals and Businesses are strongly urged to follow the LACDPH Best Practice Guidance, containing health and safety recommendations for COVID-19.
- b. Considerations for Persons at Higher Risk for Negative Health Outcomes: People at risk for severe illness or death from with COVID-19 - such as unvaccinated older adults and unvaccinated individuals with health risks - and members of their household, should defer participating in activities with other people outside their household where taking protective measures, including wearing face masks and social distancing, may not occur or will be difficult, especially indoors or in crowded spaces. For those who are not yet fully vaccinated, staying home or choosing outdoor activities as much as possible with physical distancing from

other households whose vaccination status is unknown is the best way to prevent the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

- c. Encourage Activities that Can Occur Outdoors. All Businesses and governmental entities are urged to consider moving operations or activities outdoors, where feasible and to the extent allowed by local law and permitting requirements, because there is generally less risk of COVID-19 transmission outdoors as opposed to indoors.
- d. Ventilation Guidelines. All Businesses and governmental entities with indoor operations are urged to review the Ventilation Guidelines and implement ventilation strategies for indoor operations as feasible. See California Department of Public Health [Interim Guidance for Ventilation, Filtration and Air Quality in Indoor Environments](#) for detailed information. Nothing in this Order limits any ventilation requirements that apply to particular settings under federal, state, or local law.
- e. High-Risk Health Care and Congregate Settings. This Order incorporates by reference, the State Public Health Officer Order of July 26, 2021, which requires additional statewide facility-directed measures to protect particularly vulnerable populations. The Order is found here: [State Public Health Officer Order of July 26, 2021](#).

## **5. Sectors that Continue to Require Additional Risk Reduction Measures.**

The following sectors serve persons and populations that have lower rates of vaccination or persons who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. As such, these sectors continue to require additional risk reduction measures and must operate subject to the following conditions listed below and those specified in the County sector-specific reopening protocol(s) located at:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/index.htm>:

- a. **Day camps**. Day camp owners and operators must implement and post the required LACDPH Reopening Protocol for Day Camps, attached to the LACDPH Health Officer Order (dated July 30, 2021) as [Appendix K](#).
- b. **Schools (K-12) and School Districts**. All public and private schools (K-12) and school districts within the County of Los Angeles may open for in-person classes. Educational facilities serving students at any grade level must prepare, implement and post the required LACDPH Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools, attached to the LACDPH Health Officer Order (dated July 30, 2021) at [Appendix T1](#), and must follow the Protocol for COVID-19 Exposure Management Plan in K-12 Schools, attached to the LACDPH Health Officer Order (dated July 30, 2021) as [Appendix T2](#).

- c. Mega Events (Outdoor and Indoor).** Mega Events are characterized by large crowds greater than 5,000 (indoors) and 10,000 (outdoors) attendees. Mega Events may have either assigned or unassigned seating, and may be either general admission or gated, ticketed and permitted events. These events are considered higher risk for COVID-19 transmission.
- i. Indoor Mega Events:** Indoor Mega Events (example: conventions/ conferences/ expos/ sporting events and concerts) where more than 5,000 people are in attendance remain open to the public. In addition to the general public health recommendations, Indoor Mega Event operators must verify the full vaccination status or pre-entry negative COVID-19 viral test result of all attendees. Attendees must wear a face covering while indoors at an Indoor Mega Event. Indoor Mega Event operators must prominently place information on all communications, including reservation and ticketing systems, to ensure guests are aware of the proof of pre-entry testing or full vaccination status, including acceptable modes of verification, and masking requirements.
  - ii. Outdoor Mega Events:** Outdoor Mega Events (example: music or food festivals/car shows/large endurance events and marathons/ parades/ sporting events and concerts) that attract crowds of over 10,000 persons, remain open to the public. In addition to the general public health recommendations, it is strongly recommended that Outdoor Mega Event operators verify the full vaccination status or pre-entry negative COVID-19 viral test result for all attendees. All attendees who do not verify full vaccination status prior to entry should be asked to wear face coverings. Attendees must follow California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidance for Face Coverings. Outdoor Mega Event operators must prominently place information on all communications, including reservation and ticketing systems, to ensure guests are aware that the State and County health officers strongly recommend that they be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, obtain a negative COVID-19 viral test prior to attending the event, and wear a face mask while in attendance. All persons at the event or venue are required to wear face masks while in any indoor setting, and in areas where 50% of the structure has adjacent impermeable walls, such as concourses and concession stands. Operators are to make face masks available for all attendees.
  - iii. Additional Recommendations for Both Outdoor and Indoor Mega Events:** Mega Event operators are encouraged to follow these additional recommendations:
    - 1. For Outdoor Mega Events, always require all guests to wear face masks when they are not seated in their ticketed seat.
    - 2. Encourage everyone to get vaccinated when eligible.

3. Facilitate increased ventilation of indoor spaces (i.e., open all windows and doors to increase natural air flow), following California Department of Public Health [Interim Guidance for Ventilation, Filtration and Air Quality in Indoor Environments](#).
4. Encourage everyone to sign up for [CA Notify](#) as an added layer of protection for themselves and the community to receive alerts when they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.
5. Convey the risk of attending large crowded events where the vaccine status of other attendees may be unknown to the individuals.
6. Convey the risk of attending large crowded events for populations that may not currently be eligible for vaccination or may be immunocompromised and whose vaccine protection may be incomplete.
7. Encourage all venues along any parade or event route to provide outdoor spaces for eating/drinking/congregating to reduce the risk of transmission in indoor settings.

**d. Overnight Organized/ Children’s Camps.** An organized camp is a site with program and facilities established for the primary purpose of providing an overnight outdoor group living experience for recreational or other purposes for five days or more during one or more seasons of the year. A Notice of Intent to Operate must be submitted by the Camp operator to the Environmental Health Division at [Communityhealth@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:Communityhealth@ph.lacounty.gov) prior to operation. The owner or operator of an Overnight Organized/Children’s Camp must prepare, implement and post the required LACDPH Protocols for Overnight Organized / Children’s Camps, attached to the LACDPH Health Officer Order (dated July 30, 2021) as [Appendix K-1](#).

6. If traveling, all individuals should follow all LACDPH and CDC travel guidance located at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/traveladvisory.htm> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.

7. To the extent that this Order is in conflict with earlier Orders, this Order shall supersede the others.

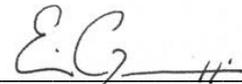
8. Failure to comply with this Order shall constitute a misdemeanor subject to fines and imprisonment. I hereby urge the Los Angeles Police Department and the City Attorney to vigorously enforce this Order via Sections 8.77 and 8.78 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code.

9. Business owners and operators are authorized to refuse service to any individual who fails to wear a face covering in accordance with Section 2 “Face Masks” of this Order.

10. Because guidance may change, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is subject to this Order is ordered to consult the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's website ([www.publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov)) daily to identify any modifications to the Order and is required to comply with any updates until the Order is terminated.

11. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

This Order shall be in place during the local emergency period, and it may be amended or rescinded as warranted according to local public health conditions.



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Eric Garcetti, MAYOR

Dated: August 5, 2021 at Los Angeles, California

Time: 12:20 a.m.

Filed with the City Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_