

Updated New Hampshire Face Mask Recommendations

June 17, 2021

COVID-19 transmission has significantly decreased in New Hampshire over the last two months, likely related to the increasing numbers of people choosing COVID-19 vaccination. As community risk from COVID-19 decreases, mitigation measures can similarly be de-escalated, especially during the summer where many activities will be outdoors and risk of transmission is even lower. Therefore, the NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) now recommends that asymptomatic persons (i.e., those who do not have symptoms of COVID-19) can choose to go without face masks in most indoor and outdoor locations, regardless of vaccination status. However, face masks are still generally recommended for people in the following circumstances when in public locations:

- Anyone who desires maximal protection for themselves (or household contacts who are medically vulnerable or unvaccinated)
- Persons who are immunocompromised and may not be able to develop a full protective immune response after COVID-19 vaccination
- Persons who have increased risk* for getting infected and spreading COVID-19 when they are in high-risk locations, especially ones that are indoors and crowded, and where people are unable to maintain physical distance from others. (Note: K-12 or child care settings are not considered “high-risk” locations.)
- When a business/organization requires facemasks in order to protect their employees and customers/attendees (please note: face masks are still required by CDC in certain settings, including on public transportation and when entering healthcare facilities)

Businesses and organizations can choose whether or not to require face masks. Decisions on face mask use and other COVID-19 mitigation measures should take into account the concerns from employees and customers, local contextual factors (e.g., indoor vs. outdoor setting, climate control, crowding, etc.), , and the level of COVID-19 within the respective community (see NH [data maps](#)).

Everyone who is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine should do so to protect themselves, their family, and their communities from COVID-19 and associated health complications.

** Persons who are at increased risk for getting infected and spreading COVID-19 include people who are not fully vaccinated, have a medical condition that prevents them from developing a full protective immune response to vaccination, and who had a known close contact exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the prior 14 days.*