



Public health order rescinding school indoor masking requirements

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) adopted a permanent school masking rule on January 28, 2022. OAR 333-019-1015. Under that rule that State Public Health Director or State Public Health Officer may issue an order rescinding the school masking requirements if those requirements are no longer necessary to control COVID-19.

As of March 11, 2022 after 11:59 PM, the school masking requirements in OAR 333-019-1015 are no longer in effect. The school masking requirements are no longer necessary because impact of COVID-19 has decreased in Oregon in several ways, including but not limited to:

- Hospitalizations due to COVID-19 have dropped below 300.
- As of March 8, 2022, the 7-day average of 520 cases/day was 94% lower than the peak of 8,209 cases/day on January 20; it is also the lowest 7-day average case number we have seen since July 2021.
- As of March 9, 2022, 75.5% of people ages 18 and over living in Oregon have completed their primary COVID-19, vaccination series in addition to immunity in those who have recently recovered from COVID-19 during the recent surges due to Delta and Omicron variants.

OHA recommends people at high risk of severe disease and hospitalization, especially in communities with medium or high levels of transmission per the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\) COVID-19 Community Levels](#), continue to wear masks in indoor settings, including people:

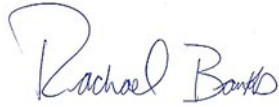
- Who are unvaccinated,
- With compromised immune systems,
- With underlying health conditions,
- Are 65 and older, or
- Living with others at high risk of severe disease.

OHA will continue to work to increase access to vaccinations, quality masks, testing and treatment in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

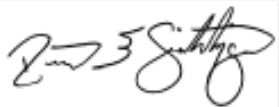
Nothing in this order prohibits a school district from requiring that staff, students, volunteers and visitors wear masks. Individuals who wish to continue to wear masks to protect against COVID-19 are free to do so.

The masking requirements for health care settings under OAR 333-019-1011 remain in effect.

Dated this 11th day of March 2022.



Public Health Director
Oregon Health Authority
Public Health Division



Health Officer and State Epidemiologist
Oregon Health Authority
Public Health Division

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