



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

City and County of Denver
Department of Public Health &
Environment
Department Operations Center
O. 720-865-3005
DPHE_DOC_News@denvergov.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 31, 2022

Denver Face Covering Order to Expire Thursday

Denver residents urged to get vaccinated and continue to take COVID-19 precautions

DENVER – Due to rapidly declining COVID-19 cases, stabilized hospitalization rates, and free and easy access to vaccines and boosters, Mayor Michael B. Hancock announced today that Denver’s face covering order will expire Thursday. The [public health order](#) requiring face coverings indoors, or proof of vaccination in lieu of face coverings, will not be extended. It was initially implemented in November and extended in December.

“I want to thank all of our residents who have gotten vaccinated and boosted, and complied with the public health order, for doing their part to slow the spread of this virus,” Mayor Hancock said. “The tool that provides the best protection from COVID-19 – the vaccine and boosters – is free and widely and readily available. It’s imperative that we all utilize these tools, to protect and prepare ourselves for life with COVID.”

As the current public health order expires this week, the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE) is joining with other metro-area public health agencies to urge residents to be mindful and take precautions when going about their daily lives. Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations, including boosters, is the best way to protect against severe disease. Other proven public health controls and personal precautions, like face coverings when in crowded indoor settings, frequent hand washing/sanitizing and staying at home when sick, limit the spread of the virus and reduce the likelihood of future, more severe variants.

“We are strongly encouraging residents to take matters of their personal safety into their own hands and get vaccinated and boosted, along with taking other COVID-19 precautions,” said DDPHE Executive Director Bob McDonald. “As a city, we’ve repeatedly taken steps to protect one another and save lives, and we are grateful to all Denver residents who have done their part to comply with past public health orders. We are confident our residents will continue to make the right decisions when it comes to their health.”

Tools to manage your health during the pandemic, such as vaccines, booster shots, testing, therapeutic treatments and high-quality face coverings (including KN95s) are widely and readily available. Additionally, DDPHE supports and encourages businesses and venues that decide to continue requiring face coverings or proof of vaccination as added safety measures.

The expiration of the original Nov. 24 indoor face covering order does not change face covering requirements in schools and childcare facilities, where face coverings have been required since August 2021. Denver continues to closely monitor vaccination rates and cases in children and will lift the school face covering order when it's safe to do so.

Denver's public health order expiration does not impact the federal requirement for [face coverings on public transportation](#), including public transit networks, airplanes, buses, trains, taxis, Ubers and Lyfts. The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) [requires face coverings](#) for unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated staff, residents, and visitors in jails, homeless shelters, and emergency medical and other healthcare settings.