



Public health order rescinding health care setting masking requirements

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) adopted a permanent health care settings masking rule on January 31, 2022. OAR 333-019-1011. Under that rule that State Public Health Director or State Public Health Officer may issue an order rescinding the health care masking requirements if those requirements are no longer necessary to control COVID-19.

As of April 3, 2023, the health care settings masking requirements in OAR 333-019-1011 are no longer in effect. The health care masking requirements are no longer necessary because the impact of COVID-19 has decreased in Oregon in several ways. OHA looked at specific criteria that, if met, indicated that transmission risk was low enough to allow masks to no longer be required in health care settings. These criteria include but are not limited to:

- Test positivity for COVID-19 being below 10% for two consecutive weeks, based on data from Oregon electronic laboratory reports, and

- Test positivity for influenza being below 5% for two consecutive weeks, based on data from Oregon National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) participants, and

- Test positivity for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) being below 10% (antigen test) and below 3% (molecular test) for two consecutive weeks, based on data from NREVSS participants.

Oregon has met all these criteria.

OHA recommends people at high risk of severe disease and hospitalization, especially in communities with higher levels of transmission, continue to wear masks in health care settings. OHA also recommends continued masking in health care settings for people:

- Who are unvaccinated,

- With compromised immune systems,

- With underlying health conditions,

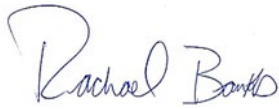
- Are 65 and older, or

- 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 governmental entity, business, or workplace from requiring that individuals wear masks. Individuals who wish to continue to wear masks to protect against COVID-19 are free to do so.

Dated this 3rd day of April 2023.



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