

## CDC Mask Update -

Last Friday – February 25<sup>th</sup>, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has changed its guidelines for wearing masks indoors to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The agency will use new metrics to determine local community levels of COVID that will determine when masks are recommended in indoor spaces.

While the agency previously measured new COVID cases and local positivity rate, the agency now considers three new metrics -- new hospitalizations, ICU bed occupancy rate and new COVID cases.

### What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li><li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you are <a href="#">at high risk for severe illness</a>, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions</li><li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li><li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wear a <a href="#">mask</a> indoors in public</li><li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li><li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li><li>• Additional precautions may be needed for people <a href="#">at high risk for severe illness</a></li></ul>
People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.		

You can look up your own county's community COVID level with the CDC's new [COVID-19 County Check tool](#). Simply enter your state and select your county via drop-down menu to see your local community level of COVID-19 -- orange for high risk, yellow for medium and green for low. The CDC recommends indoor masking only in areas with high (orange) levels of COVID-19. [COVID-19 Community Levels | CDC](#)

As of today – 02/28/2022 – Juneau County is Yellow, signifying Medium Risk, based on the new guidelines.

The CDC still advises that people at higher risk of severe complications from COVID-19 take extra precautions, regardless of their community COVID level.

The CDC's new guidelines for community COVID levels will not immediately affect the federal mask mandates. Americans will still be required to wear face coverings on public transportation, including airlines, until at least March 18.

**At all levels, people can wear a mask based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.**