

Oregon adjusts guidelines for masks, physical distancing indoors and outdoors

SALEM, Ore. – Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has released updated guidance about mask and physical distancing requirements for individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Under the updated guidance, people who are fully vaccinated will no longer be required to wear a mask indoors, in most public settings where vaccination status is checked. In public settings where vaccination status is not checked, masks will still be required. Finally, businesses and venue

operators remain free to establish their own, more restrictive policies regarding mask usage.

In addition to exempting people who are fully vaccinated from mask requirements in most indoor settings, OHA health experts announced that mask requirements no longer apply to anyone who is outdoors. OHA recommends, however, that individuals continue to wear a mask or face covering in crowded areas and large gatherings (such as

sporting events), and to maintain physical distance as much as possible. OHA urges unvaccinated individuals and those at risk for complications to wear masks in these settings.

The new guidance comes after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) last week announced that individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 could stop wearing masks and stop physical distancing in most public spaces.

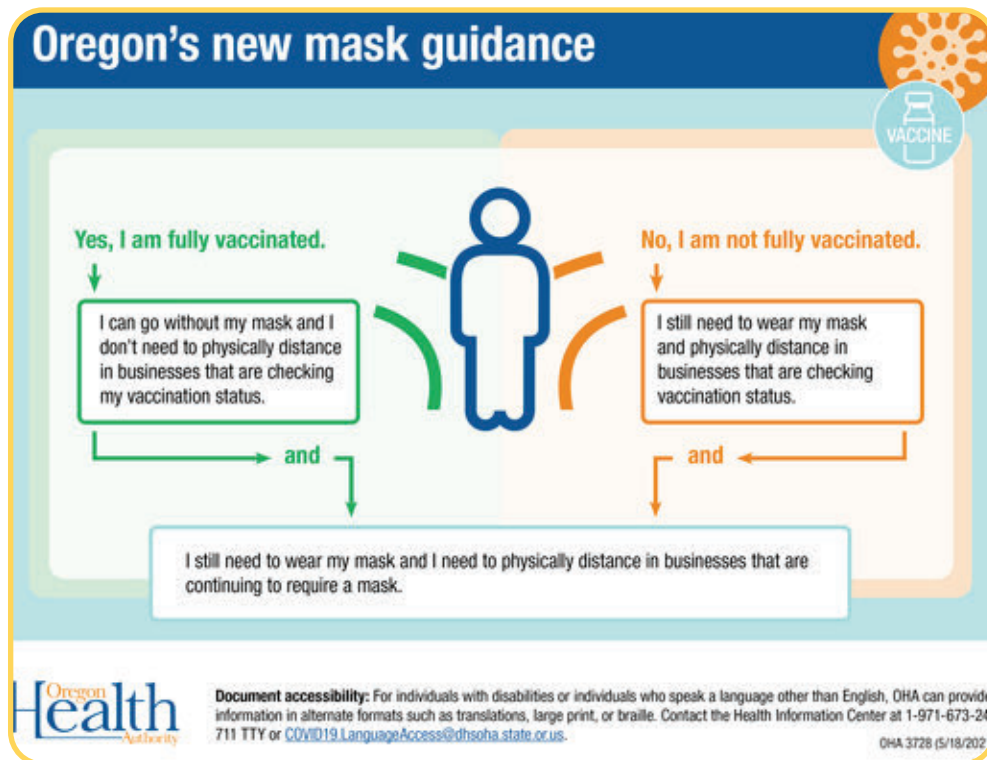
The new Oregon guidance says:

- Individuals in Oregon are no longer required to wear a face mask or physically distance, whether indoors or outdoors, two weeks after their final COVID-19 vaccination dose. A “fully vaccinated individual” is a person who has received both doses of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or one dose of a single-dose vaccine and at least 14 days have passed since the individual’s final dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Fully vaccinated individuals, however, are required to continue wearing a mask and observe physical distancing on public transportation and in schools, hospitals and clinics, homeless shelters, youth and adult correctional facilities, and long-term care facilities.

- Businesses, employers and faith institutions can choose to no longer require masks and physical distancing for fully vaccinated individuals or continue to require masks and physical distancing in their locations for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status.
- If a business, employer or faith institution chooses to no longer require masks and physical distancing, the business, employer or faith institution must require visitors to show proof of vaccination and review the proof of vaccination. In that case, a business would need to have a policy for checking the vaccination status of customers and employees if they are not wearing masks. Fully vaccinated individuals would need to provide proof they’d been vaccinated if they want to remove face coverings and not observe physical distancing guidelines.

In addition, state health experts announced that face coverings are no longer required outdoors (regardless of vaccination status). OHA strongly recommends that people who are not vaccinated and people who are at high risk of severe COVID-19 disease continue to wear face coverings and physically distance in outdoor crowded areas and large gatherings.

See more information about vaccinations in Oregon at covidvaccine.oregon.gov.



SGCETC Vaccine Informational Toolkit for Tribal Governments

How the COVID-19 Vaccines Work

The infographic is divided into several sections:

- All COVID-19 vaccines are a safe and effective way to protect our elders, our youth, our community, and our culture from the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- There are currently three vaccines available, each authorized by the FDA and tribal public health experts. These vaccines are produced by Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson.**
- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine works just like the flu vaccines that have been available for decades.**
- It provides your immune system with an example virus to practice and prepare against. It is complete with a single dose.**
- The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines work slightly different. Rather than providing the example virus for your immune system to practice against, these vaccines teach your immune system to build their own examples which your immune system then practices on.**
- These vaccines require two doses, Moderna being 28 days apart, and Pfizer being 21 days apart.**
- The CDC is reporting that once vaccinated, it's very rare that you can still spread COVID-19 to others. All of the vaccines are effective at preventing severe symptoms, hospitalization, and death.**
- However, until more data is collected, and we officially reach herd immunity, we must continue wearing masks and physical distancing to help protect our communities during this pandemic.**
- These vaccines teach your immune system to build their own examples which your immune system then practices on.**
- For the latest information on vaccine guidelines visit [FDA.gov](https://www.fda.gov) or [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov). For additional tribal COVID-19 resources, visit tribalself.gov/covid19**

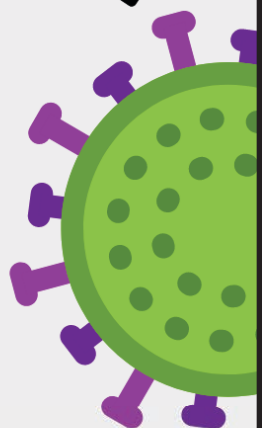
COVID vaccine availability in your area

Local IHS (Indian Health Service) or Tribal clinics may be an option for you to get your COVID vaccine. Give them a call to find out if this can possibly work for you.

COVID-19 vaccines are effective against all variants of the virus in the United States.

Current data suggests the authorized COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. offer protection against severe illness and death caused by all variants of COVID-19.

CDC is closely monitoring five variants of concern and four variants of interest.



Oregon Health Authority