

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Conditions and Environments Requiring Universal Masking for the Prevention of COVID-19 on and after May 19, 2021

Introduction

In the interest of primary prevention of COVID-19 disease, Governor Lamont's Executive Order 12A has directed the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop a list of situational conditions and environments where universal masking (i.e., the use of a face-covering mask by all individuals, regardless of vaccination status) should continue beyond May 19, 2021. An appropriate face-covering mask is one that includes multiple layers of tightly woven (or melt blown) material, is worn directly on the face, completely covers the nose and mouth, and fits closely without significant gaps between the mask and face.

Nothing herein alters any obligations under federal or state law that establishes requirements for the use of masks or other personal protective equipment in such settings.

Subject to the exemption provided in Executive Order 12A, all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must continue to wear a face-covering mask at all times when:

- 1) Inside public or private school buildings (PreK-12);
- 2) Inside licensed childcare facilities, including youth camps;
- 3) In any areas accessible by patients or clients* inside a licensed healthcare facility, or other healthcare setting, including, but not limited to:
 - a) hospitals, urgent care centers, or institutions as defined under Conn. Gen. Statute section 19a-490;
 - b) outpatient healthcare settings, including doctors' offices, dental offices, physical/occupational therapy offices, chiropractic offices, medical spas and clinical laboratories;
 - c) nursing homes (in compliance with, and as required by, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services); and
 - d) assisted living facilities or other congregate living settings (including residential care and group homes) when healthcare or supportive services are being provided.
- 4) Inside homeless shelters or other shelters, such as temporary shelter operations;
- 5) Inside correctional facilities or detention centers;
- 6) Inside or outside waiting areas at transportation hubs, or as passengers using intrastate transport services, including, but not limited to:
 - a) buses, and bus stations and stops;
 - b) trains, and train stations;
 - c) airports;
 - d) taxi stands, rideshare vehicles, or any privately hired transportation vehicles (e.g. Uber, Lyft, taxis, livery); and

e) ferries or ferry slips.

*Patients or clients in these settings can remove masks when they are alone in an examining room, when in rooms by themselves or socially distanced from others, when the procedures or services being provided require the removal of such mask, or when the patient/client is unable to tolerate masking due to clinical status.