

COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidance

Updates & New Guidelines

New: Indoor Mask Wearing Policy in Effect in City of Burlington on December 3

Effective Friday, December 3, 2021 the City of Burlington requires masks in indoor public settings where substantial numbers of people of unknown vaccination status are interacting.

Applicability

- Indoor public settings include a building or portion of a building that is regularly accessible to the general public. This applies to businesses, government, and non-profits that serve the public, as well as public transportation including taxis and ride shares. *Note: the Federal Transit Administration still requires masks on public transportation for all riders.*
- Each public building must post signage at the entrance and at other appropriate locations, with an effective date of Friday, December 3, 2021.
- This policy is in effect until January 3, 2022 and may be extended for additional 30-day periods by the City Council until April 30, 2022 (per Act 1 of the 2021 Special Session of the Vermont General Assembly).
- This policy may be rescinded prior to its expiration date if transmission levels in Chittenden County return to moderate levels as defined by the CDC, for 10 consecutive days.

Exceptions

- Masks are not required in office spaces where occupants are physically separated from the general public.
- Masks are not required for anyone who is alone inside a public building.
- Masks are not required for persons inside food and beverage establishments, bars, and gyms that actively screen and limit entry to those providing proof of vaccination for Covid-19.
- Masks are not required in the portions of a theater, gym, or athletic arena where the individuals performing, exercising, or playing have been vaccinated and there is space, a physical barrier or ventilation system that separates them from the general public or audience.
- Masks may be removed temporarily for participating in the function of a business, so long as the person removing their mask in an isolated location. For example, patrons may remove a mask when eating or drinking so long as they are seated at a table or booth.
- Masks are not required for people: under the age of 2, with difficulty breathing or with a medical complication by a face covering, or people unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- This policy is not applicable to private residences and rental units, public pre-school or K-12 school (which remain under the authority of the school board), a church or house of worship.

Individuals not adhering to the posted policies will be obligated to leave the public setting. This policy is enforceable as a civil offense under Section 1-9 of the Burlington Code of Ordinances, with fines of \$50 for first offense, \$100 for second offense, and \$500 for any subsequent offense.