



1. What are the Interim Indoor Masking Policy Options? And when can they go into effect?

The Interim Indoor Masking Policy Options are options that enable establishments, businesses, and venues that verify vaccination status or a negative test result from customers and workers to lift the indoor masking requirement for some or all fully vaccinated individuals. The new policy options are part of the revised County Health Officer Order, which takes effect on 2/25/2022.

Businesses have the choice of pursuing either of the two options to implement the policy or of continuing with existing County indoor masking requirements, regardless of vaccination status. Option 1, which can apply to both customers and workers, requires verification of vaccination status or a negative test result from 100% of customers and onsite workers. Businesses that pursue this option may allow all customers and workers to unmask indoors if they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Businesses that choose Option 2 must verify the vaccination status or a negative test result from 100% of customers. Under this option, all workers must continue to mask indoors, but customers may remove masks if they are fully vaccinated.

The table below summarizes the options, and the steps businesses must take to be able to lift the indoor mask requirement for fully vaccinated people.

	Customers		Workers	
	Fully Vaccinated	Not Fully Vaccinated*	Fully Vaccinated	Not Fully Vaccinated
Option 1: Applies to Customers and Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must provide proof of full vaccination or negative test to enter • May unmask indoors only if they provide proof of full vaccination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must provide proof of a recent negative test to enter • Must wear a mask indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must provide proof of full vaccination or negative test to enter • May unmask indoors only if they provide proof of full vaccination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must provide proof of a recent negative test to enter • Must wear a mask indoors
Option 2: Applies to Customers Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must provide proof of full vaccination or negative test to enter • May unmask indoors only if they provide proof of full vaccination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must provide proof of a recent negative test to enter • Must wear a mask indoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must continue to wear a mask indoors (no testing or proof of vaccination required to enter) 	

*Or business is unable to verify that they are fully vaccinated.





2. What is the difference between Option 1 and Option 2?

Under Option #1, a business must verify the vaccination status or a negative test result for 100% of their customers and workers. This enables them to lift the indoor mask requirement for everyone at the business who is fully vaccinated, including customers and workers.

Under Option #2, the business must verify the vaccination status or a negative test result for 100% of their customers only. This enables the business to lift the indoor mask requirement for fully vaccinated customers only; workers must continue to wear masks when indoors.

Regardless of the option that is chosen, people who are not fully vaccinated or who do not show proof of being fully vaccinated must wear a face mask when indoors, even if they have provided a negative test result.

3. Can any establishment, business, or venue take advantage of the Interim Indoor Masking Policy?

No. Certain establishments, businesses and venues must continue to require masking indoors due to state and federal rules. Masks must be worn by everyone, 2 years of age and older, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, in the following settings:

1. On public transit (examples: airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares);
2. In transportation hubs (examples: airport, bus terminal, marina, train station, seaport or other port, subway station, or any other area that provides transportation);
3. Indoors in K-12 schools, childcare, and other youth settings (See, Appendix T1 for K-12 School masking requirements);
4. Healthcare settings (including long term care facilities);
5. State and local correctional facilities and detention centers; and
6. Homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling centers.

In addition, all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and public and private businesses that **elect not to meet the criteria for Option #1 or Option #2 must continue to enforce the indoor masking policy**. (Some examples include: offices, manufacturing, warehouses, retail, food and beverage services, theaters, family entertainment centers, meetings, and state and local government offices serving the public, and Indoor Mega Events, among others).

4. Do customers need to show proof of vaccination or a negative test to use the outdoor areas?

No. With the exception of Outdoor Mega Events (events with 10,000 or more attendees), patrons may receive services or participate in activities in the outdoor portions of the business without being screened for vaccination status or having had a recent negative test.



Customers who are seated, receiving services, or participating in activities within the indoor portions of the business must show proof of their COVID-19 vaccination status or a recent negative test result, as specified, prior to entering the indoor portion of the business.

5. Do customers need to show proof to pick up food or use an indoor bathroom?

No. Customers do not need to show proof of vaccination to go indoors to get to the outdoor portion of the facility, use an indoor restroom, or order, pickup, or pay for food or drink "to go." They must wear a well-fitted mask when they are indoors. If they are ordering or picking-up food or drink, they must wait outdoors until their order is ready for pick up.

6. Do delivery or repair workers need to show proof to go indoors?

No. Individuals do not need to show proof of vaccination to go indoors as part of their employment to make a delivery or pick up, provide a service or repair, or for emergency or regulatory purposes, or to get to the outdoor portion of the facility or to use an indoor restroom. They must wear a well-fitted mask when they are indoors.

7. How do businesses verify vaccination status?

Operators are required to cross-check photo identification and proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test results for attendees ages 18 years and older. Businesses must check for two things when verifying the vaccination status of customers or workers:

- Check to see if the name, and if listed, birthdate, on the vaccination record matches a photo ID of the attendee (if 18+), AND**
- Check proof of COVID-19 vaccination for vaccination type and date(s)**
 - If Johnson & Johnson (J&J), verify single dose with date at least 14 days prior to today.
 - If Pfizer or Moderna, verify two doses with dates. The most recent date must be at least 14 days prior to today.

There are a variety of vaccination records that are acceptable as proof:

- Vaccine Record Card or Health Record**
 - CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card
 - World Health Organization (WHO) Vaccine Record Card
 - Documentation of vaccination from the healthcare provider or entity that provided the COVID-19 vaccines
 - California Immunization Registry (CAIR2) Vaccination Record
- Digital Vaccination Record**
 - Issued by the California Department of Public Health, or
 - An approved company such as Healthvana or Carbon Health

See: LA County [Visual Guidance Verifying Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination](#) for images and more detailed information.



8. How do businesses verify negative COVID-19 test results?

Businesses should take the following steps to confirm an attendee's negative COVID-19 (diagnostic) test results before they enter the facility:

- ☑ Confirm the person's name and, if listed, birthdate on the test result matches their photo ID (if 18+), AND the documentation of the COVID-19 (diagnostic) test result must show that:
 - The test result is negative, AND
 - The type of test is COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2 antigen (Ag) or PCR/NAAT, AND
 - The test was taken within the last 2 days (if PCR/NAAT) or 1 day (if antigen), AND
 - The result is from a laboratory or healthcare or test provider or patient platform for the healthcare provider (e.g., Healthvana).

See: LA County [Visual Guidance Verifying Proof of a Negative COVID-19 Test](#) for images and more detailed information.

9. Are there resources to help me train my workers and get my business ready to verify vaccination status and test results?

Yes, there are several resources available on the LA County Department of Public Health website in the [Toolkit](#), including step-by-step instructions for verifying a person's vaccination status or negative test result. You will also find signage that you can post at all entries and within your business so customers know that your business is participating in the program and what's required.

For training workers, see the [COVID-19 Safety Compliance Certificate Program](#). Module 1 offers training for businesses that are required to verify vaccination or test results. Module 2 offers training for workers who work for businesses that are voluntarily complying with the Vaccination Verification aspects of the County Health Officer Order.

10. If a customer's vaccination status has been verified on a previous visit, do we need to check it again?

Yes, vaccination status must be verified each time a patron enters.

11. Where can I get signs to tell my customers that vaccine and test verification is legally required?

DPH signage can be found in the [Toolkit](#) and on the [Best Practices to Prevent COVID-19, Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#) pages.



Masking

12. Can everyone remove masks indoors if our business verifies vaccination or test status for all customers and workers?

No. Regardless of the option chosen by the business, persons who are not fully vaccinated or who do not provide their proof of full vaccination must continue to wear masks indoors, per State regulations.

13. What are the masking requirements for workers?

Under Option #1, all workers may remove their masks while working indoors if they show proof that they are fully vaccinated. However, employers must continue to offer respirators (e.g., N95, KN95, KF94) for voluntary use to all onsite workers at no cost. Per Cal/OSHA rules, employers may not retaliate against workers who wish to continue to wear masks. Under Option #2, all workers must continue to wear well-fitting masks when indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Enforcement

14. What steps do I need to take to ensure that my business is in compliance with the Health Officer Order?

County health inspectors will be visiting and observing the operations of these facilities during normal business hours. Businesses that choose to implement one of the options to lift the indoor masking requirement for those who are fully vaccinated must:

1. Demonstrate consistent pre-entry verification of COVID-19 vaccination status and of negative COVID-19 viral test results for customers, guests, and, if applicable, workers.
2. Maintain a log of fully vaccinated workers and contractors, including the dates of vaccination status verification.
3. Maintain a log of unvaccinated or partially vaccinated workers and contractors who are required to show proof of a negative test. The log must include dates of verification of each negative test result for each person.
4. Have a supply of well-fitting respirators to offer workers
5. Have easily visible and easy to understand signage at each entry notifying the public of the verification and masking requirements

15. Will workers need to keep a customer's record of vaccine or negative test status or a record of the verification process?

No. By allowing each patron to be seated, receive services, or participate in activities at the facility, the facility owner/management is attesting that the facility has appropriately verified each customer's vaccination or negative test status prior to entry. The business will be subject to any penalties for noncompliance if it is found that it did not adhere to the proper vaccine or test verification processes.



Workers and Hired, Temporary Performers

16. Who is included as an “worker”? Will performers be required, even if they aren’t employed by the bar/lounge/nightclub to provide proof of vaccination or a recent negative test?

Workers encompass all personnel who are regularly on-site in the facility. This includes front of house, back of house, part-time, full-time, seasonal workers, and performers. These individuals must comply with the vaccination or testing requirements for workers as described in the Health Officer Order.

Many businesses may have “independent contractors” working on-site, but do not consider them to be workers. However, the California State Labor Code considers some independent contractors to be workers. Check the California Department of Industrial Relations’ [Independent Contractor versus Worker](#) webpage.

Professional performers may remove their mask when they are performing a task that cannot feasibly be performed while wearing a mask. This exception is limited to the period of time in which such tasks are actually being performed. Masks should be worn during indoor rehearsals as much as possible, or rehearsals should be moved outdoors. See [Special Considerations for Professional Performers](#) provides more detail on rules that apply to professional performers.

17. How can I help my workers to get vaccinated?

For workers who are seeking more information or who are hesitant to get vaccinated, engage them in conversation about their concerns and help them find trusted, factual information about the COVID-19 vaccines. You may refer them to [VaccinateLACounty.com](#) for more information and to find a vaccination site that fits their schedule. The vaccines are free and appointments are not necessary at many locations. Information on each vaccination site can be found on the website listed above.

COVID-19 vaccines are also widely available in large retail pharmacies, local pharmacies, and your regular health care provider. Consider offering paid time off for workers to get vaccinated and, if needed, to recover from any [vaccine side effects](#), which typically occur in the first 2 days after getting the vaccine. Consider holding a [vaccination day on-site](#) for your workers. Visit our [vaccine partner site](#) to find a list of vaccine providers that will bring a mobile vaccination clinic to you.

18. What about my workers that are not fully vaccinated?

Workers that are not fully vaccinated must wear a well-fitting face mask at all times regardless of the option chosen by the employer. If the business chooses Option #1, the worker must have a negative test every three days. The cost of tests must be borne entirely by the employer, not the worker.