

Illinois Department of Public Health Covid-19 Guidelines

Mask and Vaccine Requirements

On September 3, 2021, the Governor signed [**Executive Order 21-22**](#) which requires all individuals over the age of 2 and who can medically tolerate a face covering to wear a face covering when in indoor public places. The Executive Order also requires health care workers, school personnel, higher education personnel and students, and employees and contractors of state-owned or operated congregate facilities to be fully vaccinated, as described in the Order.

Face Covering Guidance

Who is required to wear a face covering indoors?

All individuals the age of 2 or over who can medically tolerate a face covering are required to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in an indoor public place.

All employees must wear face coverings in indoor workplaces.

What is a public indoor place?

Public indoor places refer to indoor events, facilities, or premises in which community/persons visit or work. Public indoor places include but are not limited to businesses, retail establishments, office buildings, entertainment venues, hotel meeting rooms and ballrooms, lobby areas, indoor sports complexes, and other places of leisure.

Can customers sitting inside at bars or restaurants remove their face coverings when eating and drinking?

Yes. Customers can remove their face coverings when actively eating and drinking but should wear face coverings at all other times when inside a bar or restaurant. It is recommended that tables be arranged so that seated patrons are a minimum of six feet away from patrons at other tables.

In addition to wearing face coverings, what can individuals do to help prevent the spread of COVID-19?

All individuals should consider vaccination. Additionally, individuals should take **extra precautions** when around large crowds, especially in an indoor setting. The CDC recommends:

- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated areas;
- Maintain physical distance; and
- Monitor your daily health and avoid leaving your home if you experience COVID-19 symptoms