

Mask Guidance

As a business, faith organization, event manager or non-profit, you've probably got questions about the latest CDC mask guidance on mask wearing for fully vaccinated people, and what this means for you.

HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW about how these rules apply in Whatcom County:

- **Everyone who is not fully vaccinated must still wear a mask.**
That applies to your employees and to your customers or visitors in public spaces.
Fully vaccinated means you got your final COVID-19 shot at least two weeks ago.
- **Everyone, vaccinated or not, must wear a mask in certain higher risk settings:**
 - Health care settings
 - Public transportation
 - Homeless shelters
 - Schools and childcare centers
 - Correctional facilities

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO IS VACCINATED?

■ Employees

As an employer, you're required to verify your employee's vaccination status before they can stop wearing masks at work. Your employees can verify their status in one of two ways:

1. Provide proof of vaccination. Acceptable forms of vaccination proof include their CDC vaccination card, state immunization record or records from their healthcare provider.

2. Sign a document attesting to their vaccination status. Employee attestations must be signed and documented.

Whether you ask for proof of vaccination or a signed statement, make sure you keep records. Employers must be able to show their system for recording vaccine verification to L&I if requested. To learn how, go to www.lni.wa.gov/coronavirus.

■ Customers and Visitors

There are two ways you can have customers and visitors verify their vaccination status:

1. Request proof of vaccination. You could institute a process to verify the vaccination status of customers and visitors. It is not a violation of HIPAA or any other federal, state, or local law to ask for proof of vaccination. HIPAA applies only to certain health care entities. It does not apply to non-healthcare employers or those who don't work directly with such employers.

2. Honor System. You could use an honor system and assume that any visitor or customer not wearing a mask is fully vaccinated.

As a business or non-profit, you can choose to require masks for everyone, vaccinated or not. We strongly recommend that everyone wear a mask when in crowded indoor spaces or at large gatherings, at least until more people in our community are fully vaccinated. If you choose to require masks for everyone in your space to protect the health of your workers and customers, we suggest you make it clear on entrances to your buildings or on your website and social media.

If you've got more questions, we're here to help. 360-778-6000 | WhatcomTogether.org

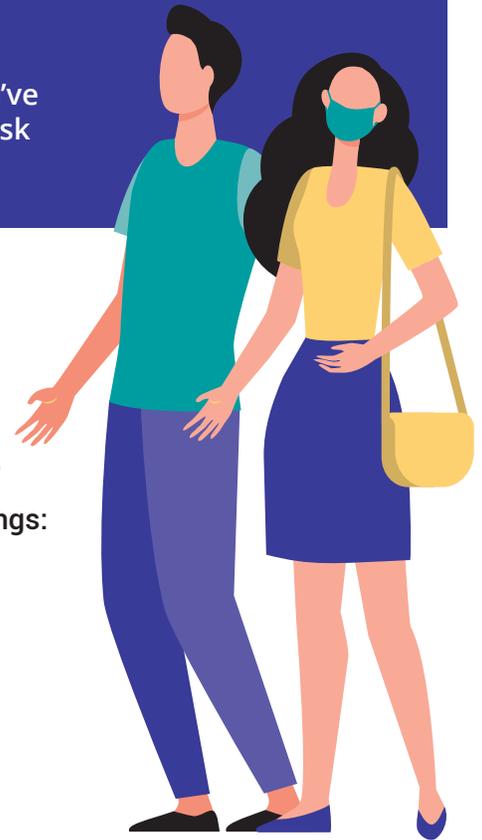
L&I COVID-19 Resources <https://www.lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/novel-coronavirus-outbreak-covid-19-resources>

Governor's Proclamation 20-25.13 – Healthy Washington:

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/office-governor/official-actions/proclamations>

Governor's Proclamation 21-08 – Safe Workers:

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/office-governor/official-actions/proclamations>



Whatcom County
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