



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

Public Order Under City of Los Angeles Emergency Authority

Issue Date: March 4, 2022

Subject: SAFER L.A.

Following the post-winter surge, the County of Los Angeles continues to experience consistent declines in COVID-19 cases, test positivity rates, and related hospitalizations. Based on these significant trends, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) will now utilize new metrics to guide the realignment of the County's COVID-19 public health mitigation response. LACDPH's new metrics include: 1) the February 25, 2022 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [COVID-19 Community Level](#) metrics and prevention strategies and 2) the State of California's [SMARTER Plan](#).

As of March 3, 2022, the [CDC's Community Level Metrics](#), which measure the impact of COVID-19 illness on health and health care systems, the County has a 7-day average case rate of 98.21 new cases per 100,000 in population, a 7-day average of 7.5 new admissions of confirmed COVID-19 per 100,000 population, and a 7-day average of 5.8% of its staffed inpatient beds in use by patients with confirmed COVID-19. These metrics demonstrate that the COVID-19 burden on the County's health care system is now at a Low level. However, federal CDC indicators and thresholds measuring community transmission of COVID-19 within the County continue to be at a Substantial level. As recognized by the State Public Health Officer dated February 28, 2022 and the LACDPH Order dated March 3, 2022, here in Los Angeles, the continuance of certain community level mitigation measures, especially in high transmission risk settings, is appropriate.

Accordingly, this Order mainly aligns with the State Public Health Officer Order of February 28, 2022, and the LACDPH Health Officer Order, dated March 3, 2022. It continues to place certain safety requirements on individuals at higher-risk settings consistent with federal and state rules. Further, this Order incorporates by reference the July 26, 2021, and December 22, 2021 Orders of the State Public Health Officer, which require specific transmission prevention measures to be taken by Acute Health Care and Long-Term Care settings, High-Risk Congregate settings, and Other Health Care

settings. Significantly, the State Orders recognize that local government entities, including the City of Los Angeles, businesses, and venues may choose to continue requiring more protective infection control precautions for their customers, visitors and workers.

Since mid-January 2022, cases, test positivity, and hospitalization rates are consistently decreasing. However, here in Los Angeles, COVID-19 remains a concern to public health. Even though more people in the County are vaccinated, there are still millions of people in the County who are not yet fully vaccinated, including children under 5 years old, who are not currently eligible, and people who are immunocompromised and may be vulnerable to infection and disease. Most COVID-19 infections are spread by people with no or mild symptoms. The Omicron variant, currently the predominant strain in Los Angeles County, spreads more easily than the original virus that causes COVID-19. In the absence of masking while in indoor settings, unvaccinated and partially vaccinated persons are more likely to get infected and spread the virus, which is transmitted through the air and concentrates in indoor settings.

Current vaccines lower the risk of infection and, if infected, help protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant. However, breakthrough infections in people who are vaccinated can occur, but at a significantly lower rate than those among persons who are not fully vaccinated.¹ People who are up to date (up to date means fully vaccinated and received a booster dose, or fully vaccinated but not yet booster-eligible) with their COVID-19 vaccines and get COVID-19 are less likely to develop severe illness, be hospitalized, or die than those who are unvaccinated and get COVID-19. Additionally, according to the CDC "...getting a COVID-19 vaccination is a safer and more dependable way to build immunity to COVID-19 than getting sick with COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination causes a more predictable immune response than infection with the virus that causes COVID-19." Conversely, the level of protection people get from COVID-19 infection alone may vary widely depending on how mild or severe their illness was, the time since their infection, which variant they were infected with, and their age. Increasing evidence shows that a combination of infection and completion of the primary series of vaccination can build strong hybrid immunity.

Based on this current science, the best way to reduce the current level of community transmission, reduce the likelihood of new variants emerging, and prevent future surges is for everyone who is eligible, including those who have recovered from COVID-19, to get fully vaccinated and be up to date on their vaccines as soon as possible. People at risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (more likely to be hospitalized, need intensive care, require a ventilator to help them breathe, or die), such as unvaccinated older adults, people from racial and ethnic minority groups, and individuals with [underlying medical conditions associated with higher risk for severe COVID-19](#),² and members of their

¹People are considered "fully vaccinated" against COVID-19 two weeks or more after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose COVID-19 vaccine series (e.g., Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), a single-dose of Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, or finished the series of a COVID-19 vaccine that has been [listed for emergency use](#) by the World Health Organization.

²Based on the current evidence, a person with one or more of the medical conditions listed below is more likely to get very sick (more likely to be hospitalized, need intensive care, require a ventilator to help them breathe, or die) from COVID-19. The underlying medical conditions associated with high risk severe COVID-19 include: Cancer, Cerebrovascular disease, Chronic kidney disease, Chronic lung diseases (Interstitial lung disease, Pulmonary embolism, Pulmonary hypertension, Bronchiectasis, COPD (chronic obstructive

households are strongly urged to get vaccinated as soon as they can. And all persons who are fully vaccinated should also receive a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they are eligible since studies show that the protection from the primary COVID-19 vaccination decreases over time. With an increased immune response, people should have improved protection against getting infected with and seriously ill from COVID-19, including the variants.

The primary intent of this Order is to continue to protect the most vulnerable, including those at risk of experiencing elevated rates of illness and death, from COVID-19, including those in higher transmission risk settings, safeguard the functioning of hospitals and the health care system, and to prevent the unconstrained spread and significant illness. In addition, this Order is intended to continue increasing COVID-19 vaccination and booster dose rates. The goal of this Order is to reduce transmission of COVID-19 long-term so that the whole community is safer, and the COVID-19 health emergency can come to an end.

Under the provisions of Section 231(i) of the Los Angeles City Charter and Chapter 3, Section 8.27 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, I hereby declare that the Safer L.A. Order, dated February 24, 2022, is withdrawn and superseded by this Order, which is necessary for the protection of life and property in the City of Los Angeles and is effective on Friday, March 5, 2022 at 12:01 AM:

1. All persons living and working within the City of Los Angeles should continue to always practice required and recommended COVID-19 infection control measures at all times and when among other persons when in community, work, social, or school settings, especially when multiple unvaccinated persons from different households may be present and in close contact with each other, especially when in indoor or crowded outdoor settings.

All persons in the general public diagnosed with COVID-19 must review and comply with the requirements for isolation provided in the County's Health Officer Public Health Emergency [Isolation Order](#). And those who were exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 while the positive person was infectious must review and comply with the quarantine requirements provided in the County's Health Officer Public Health Emergency [Quarantine Order](#). Separate isolation and quarantine requirements are outlined in the [Coronavirus Disease 2019: Infection Prevention Guidance for Healthcare Personnel](#) and in [Appendix T1: Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools for students in K-12 School Settings](#).

pulmonary disease)), Chronic liver diseases (Cirrhosis, Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, Alcoholic liver disease, Autoimmune hepatitis), Cystic fibrosis, Diabetes mellitus, type 1 and type 2, Disabilities (Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Cerebral Palsy, Congenital Malformations (Birth Defects), Limitations with self-care or activities of daily living, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, Spinal Cord Injuries), Heart conditions (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies), HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), Mental health disorders (Mood disorders, including depression, Schizophrenia spectrum disorders), Neurologic conditions limited to dementia, Obesity (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²), Primary Immunodeficiencies, Pregnancy and recent pregnancy, Physical inactivity, Smoking (current and former), Solid organ or hematopoietic cell transplantation, Tuberculosis, and Use of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive medications.

2. **Face Masks**

All individuals, businesses, and employers must follow the requirements included in this Order and the LACDPH Health Officer Order (dated March 3, 2022). These requirements and recommendations for the use of face masks are aligned with [February 28, 2022 Guidance issued by the State Public Health Officer](#). LACDPH and the State Public Health Officer strongly recommend that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, continue to wear face masks indoors to prevent transmission to:

- Persons with a higher risk of infection (e.g., unvaccinated or immunocompromised persons),
- Persons with prolonged, cumulative exposures (e.g., workers), or
- Persons whose vaccination status is unknown.

When people wear a well-fitting mask with good filtration correctly, they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct mask use (covering nose and mouth) is especially important indoors when in close contact with others (less than six feet from) who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or whose vaccination status is unknown.

a. Masks are required to be worn by everyone, 2 years of age or older, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, in the following City of Los Angeles settings:

- i. On public transit (examples: airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares);
- ii. In transportation hubs (examples: airport, bus terminal, marina, train station, seaport or other port, subway station, or any other area that provides transportation);
- iii. Indoors in K-12 schools and childcare facilities through March 11, 2022 (See, [Appendix T1](#) for recent updates to K-12 School masking requirements, attached to the LACDPH Health Officer Order dated March 3, 2022). Beginning March 12, 2022, the universal masking requirement for K-12 Schools and Childcare settings will terminate. Both the County and State Public Health Officer strongly recommend that individuals in these settings continue to mask in indoor settings when the universal masking requirement lifts;
- iv. Healthcare settings (including long-term care facilities and adult and senior care facilities). This requirement applies to all health care settings, including those that are not covered by the [State Health Officer Order issued on July 26, 2021](#);
- v. State and local correctional facilities and detention centers;

- vi. Homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling and heating centers; and
 - vii. City of Los Angeles facilities.
- b. Masks are strongly recommended for all persons, regardless of vaccine status, in other indoor public settings and businesses (examples: retail, restaurants, theaters, family entertainment centers, cardrooms, and meetings). Well-fitting and better filtering masks (e.g., double masks, high filtration cloth masks, medical masks) and respirators (e.g., N95s, KN95s, KF94s) are highly recommended. In settings where masks are strongly recommended, businesses, venue operators, or hosts should, as a strategy to reduce the risk of transmission at their site(s), consider:
- i. Providing information to all patrons, guests, and attendees regarding mask recommendations or their masking requirements for all persons regardless of vaccine status.
 - ii. Providing information to all patrons, guests and attendees to consider [better fit and filtration](#) for their masks. Surgical masks or higher-level respirators (e.g., N95s, KN95s, KF94s) with a good fit are recommended over cloth masks.
 - iii. Requiring all patrons, workers, or both to wear masks, especially when risk in the community may be substantial or high, or if those being served are at high risk for severe disease or illness.
 - iv. Requiring attendees who do not provide proof of full vaccination to enter an Indoor Mega Event to continue masking during the event, especially when not actively eating or drinking.
- c. Special considerations are made for people with communication difficulties or certain disabilities. Clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel that fit well are an [alternative type of mask](#) for people who interact with: people who are deaf or hard of hearing, children or students learning to read, people learning a new language, and people with disabilities.
- d. All local government entities, businesses, venue operators or hosts should implement measures to clearly communicate the masking requirements to all persons on their premises.
- e. No person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a business.
- f. In workplaces, most employers and businesses are subject to the [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards \(ETS\)](#) and some to the [Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standards](#), and should consult those regulations

for additional applicable requirements. The ETS allow local health jurisdictions to require more protective mandates.

- i. In workplace establishments and settings with active outbreaks, the site is required to cooperate with LACDPH's investigation of the outbreak, and quarantine and isolation may be extended for additional days by County Public Health outbreak investigators to help lower the risk of ongoing transmission at the site.
 - ii. Healthcare personnel in any setting must comply with the State's *Guidance on Quarantine for Health Care Personnel (HCP) Exposed to SARS-CoV-2 and Return to Work for HCP with COVID-19*, as described in [AFL-21-08.7](#).
- g. In workplace indoor settings where masking is recommended, but not required, employers are required to offer for voluntary use a well-fitting medical mask³ or respirator, such as an N95, KN95, or KF94, at no cost to their employees who work indoors and have contact with other workers, customers, or members of the public, or in vehicles with more than one person. Please note that Cal/OSHA COVID-19 ETS require that employers provide respirators upon request for voluntary use to employees who are not fully vaccinated and who are working indoors or in vehicles with more than one person.
- i. Employers that elect to maintain universal masking indoors at their business, facility, or venue should provide well-fitting medical masks at no cost to their employees.

3. Mandatory Reporting by Businesses and Governmental Entities

Persons and businesses within the County of Los Angeles Public Health Jurisdiction, are required to follow the COVID-19 infection control protocols and guidance provided by the LACDPH regarding isolation of persons confirmed or suspected to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 disease or quarantine of those exposed to and at risk of infection from COVID-19. In instances where the County has not provided specific guidance or protocols, specific guidance or protocols established by the State Public Health Officer shall control.

- a. In the event that an owner, manager, or operator of any business knows of three (3) or more cases of COVID-19 among their employees, assigned or contracted workers or volunteers, within a span of 14 days, the employer must report this outbreak to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health at (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821, or online at www.redcap.link/covidreport.

³ Masks with an adjustable nose bridge that are made of at least three layers of non-woven material (melt-blown fabric and/or polypropylene) will provide increased protection and meet the requirements for a "medical mask." These masks are often sold as disposable, protective, medical, or surgical masks.

- b. In the event that an owner, manager, or operator of any business is informed that one or more employees, assigned or contracted workers, or volunteers of the business has tested positive for, or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (case), the employer must have a protocol to require the case(s) to isolate themselves at home and require the immediate self-quarantine of all employees that had a workplace exposure to the case(s).

4. **LACDPH Best Practice Guidance.**

- a. All individuals and businesses are strongly urged to follow the LACDPH Best Practice Guidance, containing health and safety recommendations for COVID-19.
- b. Considerations for Persons at Higher Risk for Negative Health Outcomes: People at risk for severe illness or death from COVID-19—such as unvaccinated older adults and unvaccinated individuals with [underlying medical conditions associated with higher risk for severe COVID-19](#)—and members of their household, should defer participating in activities with other people outside their household where taking protective measures, including wearing face masks and social distancing, may not occur or will be difficult, especially indoors or in crowded spaces. For those who are not yet fully vaccinated, staying home or choosing outdoor activities as much as possible with physical distancing from other households whose vaccination status is unknown is the best way to prevent the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- c. Encourage Activities that Can Occur Outdoors. All businesses and governmental entities are urged to consider moving operations or activities outdoors, where feasible and to the extent allowed by local law and permitting requirements, because there is generally less risk of COVID-19 transmission outdoors as opposed to indoors.
- d. Ventilation Guidelines. All businesses and governmental entities with indoor operations are urged to review the Ventilation Guidelines and implement ventilation strategies for indoor operations as feasible. See California Department of Public Health [Interim Guidance for Ventilation, Filtration and Air Quality in Indoor Environments](#) for detailed information. Nothing in this Order limits any ventilation requirements that apply to particular settings under federal, state, or local law.
- e. High-Risk Health Care and Congregate Settings. This Order incorporates by reference, the State Public Health Officer Order of July 26, 2021, which requires additional statewide facility-directed measures to protect particularly vulnerable populations. The Order is found here: [State Public Health Officer Order of July 26, 2021](#).

5. Sectors that Continue to Require Additional Risk Reduction Measures.

The following sectors serve persons and populations that have lower rates of vaccination, who are at higher risk of being infected, or who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. As such, these sectors continue to require additional risk reduction measures and must operate subject to the following conditions listed below and those specified in the County sector-specific reopening protocol(s) located at:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/index.htm>.

In settings where pre-entry verification of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 viral test result is not required by the County, local government entities, such as the City of Los Angeles, businesses, venue operators, and hosts may choose to require pre-entry verification of COVID-19 vaccination, pre-entry verification of a negative COVID-19 viral test result, or both as an additional, important strategy to reduce transmission at their site(s), regardless of masking. **Note:** The City of Los Angeles requires proof of full vaccination with a COVID-19 vaccine to enter certain public locations. For applicable City rules, please see Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 200.120 *et seq.*

- a. **Day camps.** Day camp owners and operators must implement and post the required LACDPH Reopening Protocol for Day Camps, attached to the LACDPH Health Officer Order (dated March 3, 2022) as [Appendix K](#).
- b. **Schools (K-12) and School Districts.** All public and private schools (K-12) and school districts within the County of Los Angeles may open for in-person classes. Educational facilities serving students at any grade level must prepare, implement and post the required LACDPH Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools, attached to the LACDPH Health Officer Order (dated March 3, 2022) at [Appendix T1](#), and must follow the Protocol for COVID-19 Exposure Management Plan in K-12 Schools, attached to the LACDPH Health Officer Order (dated March 3, 2022) as [Appendix T2](#).
- c. **Recommendations for Both Outdoor and Indoor Mega Events:** At all Indoor and Outdoor Mega Events (1,000+ attendees for Indoor, and 10,000+ attendees for Outdoor), operators are encouraged to follow these additional recommendations:
 1. Assign staff to remind all guests of the recommendation to wear face masks while on the premises or location.
 - a. Encourage everyone to get vaccinated and receive a COVID-19 booster when eligible.
 - b. Facilitate increased ventilation of indoor spaces (i.e., open all windows and doors to increase natural airflow), following California Department of Public Health [Interim Guidance for Ventilation, Filtration and Air Quality in Indoor Environments](#).
 - c. Encourage everyone to sign up for [CA Notify](#) as an added layer of protection for themselves and the community to receive alerts when they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.
 - d. Convey the risk of attending large, crowded events where the

vaccine status of other attendees may be unknown to the individuals.

- e. Convey the risk of attending large, crowded events for populations that may not currently be eligible for vaccination or may be immunocompromised and whose vaccine protection may be incomplete.

d. Overnight Organized/ Children's Camps. An organized camp is a site with program and facilities established for the primary purpose of providing an overnight outdoor group living experience for recreational or other purposes for five days or more during one or more seasons of the year. A Notice of Intent to Operate must be submitted by the Camp operator to the Environmental Health Division at Communityhealth@ph.lacounty.gov prior to operation. The owner or operator of an Overnight Organized/Children's Camp must prepare, implement and post the required LACDPH Protocols for Overnight Organized / Children's Camps, attached to the LACDPH Health Officer Order (dated March 3, 2022 as [Appendix K-1](#).

e. Organized Youth Sports Activities. Organized youth sports include all school (TK-12 Grades) and community-sponsored programs and recreational or athletic activities and privately organized clubs and leagues. Organized Youth Sport Protocols do not apply to collegiate or professional sports. The Protocol provides direction on outdoor and indoor youth sports activities to support an environment that presents less risk for participants of these sports. The organizers and operators of Organized Youth Sport Activities must review, implement and post the required LACDPH Protocol for Organized Youth Sports, effective September 1, 2021, attached to the LACDPH Health Officer Order (dated March 3, 2022) as [Appendix S](#).

6. If traveling, all individuals should follow all LACDPH and CDC travel guidance located at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/traveladvisory.htm> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.

7. To the extent that this Order conflicts with earlier Orders, this Order shall supersede the others.

8. Failure to comply with this Order shall constitute a misdemeanor subject to fines and imprisonment. I hereby urge the Los Angeles Police Department and the City Attorney to vigorously enforce this Order via Sections 8.77 and 8.78 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code.

9. Business owners and operators are authorized to refuse service to any individual who fails to comply with this Order.

10. Because guidance may change, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is subject to this Order is encouraged to consult the Los Angeles County

Department of Public Health's website (www.publichealth.lacounty.gov) daily to identify any modifications to the LACDPH Order (dated March 3, 2022) and the Best Practice Guidance.

11. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

This Order shall be in place during the local emergency period, and it may be amended or rescinded as warranted according to local public health conditions.



Eric Garcetti, MAYOR

Dated: March 4, 2022, at Los Angeles, California

Time: 4:00p.m.

Filed with the City Clerk

Date: _____

Time: _____

By: _____