

We think the threshold for the mask mandate should coincide with CDC guidelines, meaning people wear masks in areas of substantial or high transmission. It was hard to figure out a clear threshold using hospital capacity and ICU data, particularly due to staff shortages.

Here is the CDC guidance—happy to talk through further:

- Everyone 2 years or older who is not fully vaccinated should [wear a mask](#) in indoor public places.
- In general, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings.
 - In areas with [high numbers of COVID-19 cases](#), consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with [close contact](#) with others who are not fully vaccinated.
- People who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system may not be fully protected even if they are fully vaccinated. They should continue to take all [precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask](#), until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.
- If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection and prevent possibly spreading COVID-19 to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area [of substantial or high transmission](#).