

BOULDER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

Issued February 18, 2022

This document outlines Boulder County Public Health recommendations and considerations to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. Some individuals and businesses may still be subject to state or federal requirements.

In addition, certain businesses, including private businesses, child care settings, or schools, may choose to implement their own requirements based on their circumstances and consideration for their own population risks.

Boulder County Public Health works closely with our schools, child care, and education partners directly and provides advice based on their individual circumstances that may not be reflected in this advisory.

Even if it does not fall within the recommendations here or under any federal, state, or business requirement, individuals may still choose to wear a mask based on their own risk tolerance.

Recommendations for General Public:

- **Vaccination:** Boulder County Public Health recommends that all individuals get up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in helping to prevent serious illness and hospitalizations.
 - “Up to Date” is defined by the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

- **Face Coverings:**

We expect the CDC to update their mask guidance in the coming weeks and Boulder County Public Health will review the updated guidance and update these recommendations accordingly and if needed.

- **Individuals Who are Up to Date on COVID-19 Vaccination:** Boulder County Public Health recommends that individuals who are up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations wear a medical grade face covering while in close proximity to individuals at high risk for severe disease, hospitalization, and death or in settings that primarily serve individuals who are not up to date or at high risk for severe disease.

- **Individuals Who are not Up to Date on COVID-19 Vaccination:**
 - Individuals who are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations should continue to wear a medical grade face covering while around others while Boulder County remains in substantial or high transmission.
 - Individuals who are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations should wear a face covering while in close proximity to individuals at high risk for severe disease, hospitalization, and death or in settings that primarily serve individuals who are not up to date or at high risk for severe disease regardless of transmission rates.
- **Individuals at High Risk for Severe Disease, Hospitalization and Death**
 - CDC has identified adults over the age of 65 and people with certain underlying conditions and risk factors to be at higher risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19. A list of medical conditions is available on the [CDC website](#).
 - BCPH still encourages a snugly fit medical grade face covering to protect anyone at high risk for more severe disease from COVID-19 infections or who may have frequent close contact with someone who is at higher risk for more severe disease.
- **Testing:** Individuals who intend to be in close proximity to individuals at high risk for severe disease, hospitalization, and death should consider obtaining a test prior to gathering.
- **Other Mitigation Recommendations:**
 - Increase airflow and ventilation – Move gatherings outdoors when possible or practicable, particularly when involving high risk individuals. While indoors, use HEPA filters or increase ventilation and airflow by opening windows or increasing air circulation.
 - Wash your hands – Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand rub that contains 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
 - Stay home when sick; stay away from others when they are sick.
 - Consult with your healthcare provider on a recommended course of action, including any recommended therapies, if you are exposed to someone with COVID-19, come down with any symptoms, or test positive.

Recommendations for Businesses and Facilities

Some businesses and facilities may be subject to state or federal requirements. Other businesses and facilities that are not subject to requirements may choose to implement additional mitigation measures as a matter of internal policy. Such policies may include measures to protect individuals who are not up to date or who are at [higher risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death](#). Such measures could also include requiring face coverings, including requiring medical grade face coverings, offering face coverings, moving activities outdoors, increasing ventilation indoors, or implementing vaccination requirements.