

PHMDC: Dane County continues Face Covering Order until January 3, 2022

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Public Health Madison & Dane County is issuing [Face Covering Emergency Order #5](#), effective at 12:01am on November 27, 2021. The Order requires face coverings among people ages two and older when in most enclosed spaces open to the public where other people are present. The order will expire on January 3, 2022.

“We had hoped to not issue any more face covering orders but in the last three weeks, our [rate of disease](#) in the community has nearly doubled, the rate among children is at an all-time high and in other parts of the state, cases are even higher,” said Janel Heinrich, Director of Public Health Madison & Dane County. “With the holiday travel season upon us, this Order provides more time for those who are [newly eligible](#) to get their first and second doses and for more adults to get booster doses.”

Dane County has had consistently lower levels of disease than almost all other Wisconsin counties due to high vaccination rates and masking policies, but is still classified as [high transmission](#) as defined by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. On November 19, the 7-day average of people testing positive in Dane County was 163 (rate of 29.8 per 100,000), in Wisconsin, that number was 3,068 (rate of 52.5 per 100,000).

“The landscape of COVID continues to evolve, and we are at a point in this pandemic where it’s likely that COVID will keep spreading in our communities for years, like the flu does; cases may go up and down, but will never completely go away,” said Satya Rhodes-Conway, City of Madison Mayor. “Vaccines are the best tool we have to prevent COVID illness and severe outcomes, but masks, physical

distancing, and other tools provide an added layer of protection.”

All adults who received Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine are now eligible to receive their [booster dose](#) at least 6 months after they received their second dose. People who got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine are also eligible for a booster dose of any of the available COVID-19 vaccines. On November 22, 28% of all Dane County adults who received their initial series had received their booster.

“The best path forward throughout this pandemic has always been and continues to be vaccination, with boosters now approved for all adults increasing the existing immunity,” said Dane County Executive Joe Parisi. “Because we know how effective the vaccine is at preventing severe illness and death, this Order takes that into account, by providing an exception for vaccinated individuals.”

The Order mirrors previous face covering orders; however, it now allows people to remove their masks if all individuals in an enclosed space are fully vaccinated. People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech’s or Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine or two weeks after their first dose of Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 vaccine.

“Keeping a mask order as an added layer of protection is a smart decision for our county,” said Jerry Halverson, MD, Chair of the Board of Health. “Families may soon venture outside of Dane County for the holidays and will likely encounter areas with lower vaccination rates, so keeping masks on for a little bit longer provides a circle of protection for those who are still in the process of becoming fully vaccinated.”

The Order will be in effect until January 3, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. View [Face Covering Emergency Order #5](#) for additional information.

For more information about the COVID-19 in Dane County visit publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus. You can also follow @publichealthmdc on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).