



# News Release

Unified Government of Wyandotte County  
701 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 620  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2021

## Unified Government Adopts New Mask Order in Alignment with Kansas City, MO and Jackson County

*Masks are Still Required Indoors in Wyandotte County*

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS (UG) Commission adopted a new mask order, which went into effect at 12:01 a.m. on April 30 and remains in effect until 11:59 p.m. on May 28, 2021. Under this order, mask protocols continue for most public indoor settings. Outdoor mask requirements and social distancing requirements are no longer in place, although these guidelines are still strongly recommended by local public health officials.

During a Special Session at 5:00 p.m. on April 29, officials from the UG Public Health Department (UGPHD) presented a COVID-19 update to the UG Commission. The Commission also acts as the Board of Health for Wyandotte County. The presentation included a recommendation to adopt an updated mask order in alignment with those recently issued in Jackson County and Kansas City, Missouri. UGPHD officials emphasized that Wyandotte County's population has not reached herd immunity in terms of vaccination rates, and that mask-wearing, especially indoors, is still an important strategy for reducing the spread of COVID-19. The new order was adopted during the UG Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### Overview of the mask order

- **Wear masks when you are in indoor public spaces around coworkers or the public:** Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth by employees and visitors in any indoor public accommodation, in an area or while performing an activity which will necessarily involve close contact or proximity to co-workers or the public where six feet of separation is not feasible.
  - "Indoor public accommodation" means any indoor space that can be accessed by the public, including but not limited to: grocery stores, other retail stores, indoor events, and public transit
- **School boards determine their own protocols:** The mask order does not apply to schools. Any mask protocols in school settings will be determined by the school's governing body.
- **Religious exceptions:** People engaged in religious services, ceremonies, or activities are not required to wear masks, although masks are still recommended during these activities.
- **People who are fully vaccinated:** People can be unmasked indoors during any interaction or gathering, per CDC guidance, in which the parties have knowledge that *all persons present indoors are fully vaccinated* by federally-approved vaccine(s) to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
  - "Fully vaccinated" means that people have received all doses of a vaccine (two doses of Pfizer or Moderna, or one dose of Johnson & Johnson), and it has been at least two weeks since they received their final dose.

- The order includes additional exemptions from wearing masks indoors, such as children under age 5, people with certain health conditions, and people communicating with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing. See the [health order](#) for the full list of exceptions.

This replaces the previous order, which also included protocols for social distancing and for wearing masks in certain outdoor public settings. Public health agencies such as the CDC, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the UGPHD, continue to strongly recommend social distancing and wearing masks whenever you are around people outside of your household, especially if you do not know if all people present have been vaccinated or not.

You can view the recording of the UG Commission's Special Session here (COVID-19 update begins at 11:20): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXaYkQfLySc>

### **Continued importance of vaccines and testing**

Wearing masks indoors is only one part of how our community can fight the spread of COVID-19. The UGPHD continues to provide free COVID-19 vaccinations for anyone age 16 and older. You will not be asked for an insurance card at any of the UGPHD vaccination sites, and you can get vaccinated even if you do not have a government issued ID. Additionally, free COVID-19 saliva tests are available at the UGPHD vaccination sites. Testing is still strongly recommended if you have any symptoms, if you have a known exposure to COVID-19, or even as a general precaution, such as getting tested before or after travelling.

Learn more about vaccines at [WycoVaccines.org](http://WycoVaccines.org) or by calling 3-1-1. Get other COVID-19 information, including testing information, at [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19).

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### **Community Information and Questions:**

Vaccine information: Go to [WycoVaccines.org](http://WycoVaccines.org) or call 3-1-1 (913-573-5311)

Other COVID-19 updates: Go to [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19)

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