



News Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 28, 2021

Unified Government Mask Order for Wyandotte County Expires Tonight

Fully vaccinated people may remove masks in public indoor spaces

Thursday night, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS (UG) Commission decided not to extend Wyandotte County’s mask order, allowing the order to expire. The current mask order will expire tonight, May 28, at 11:59 p.m.

During the Commission meeting, several Commissioners emphasized the importance of following mask guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). They also clarified that businesses and other organizations may implement their own mask policies for visitors and workers at their sites.

The UG Public Health Department (UGPHD) will continue its COVID-19 response efforts, as UGPHD Director Juliann Van Liew noted today:

“As a health department we will continue to strongly encourage the use of masks for individuals who are unvaccinated, especially indoors, and we will continue to focus on vaccines,” said Van Liew. “We will also encourage our local businesses and other entities to require masks indoors in their places of operation. We will also, of course, require masks in all areas of our COVID-19 vaccine operations, including stationary and mobile sites, and other Health Department facilities

Mask Guidance for Individuals

	Fully Vaccinated*	Not Vaccinated or Partially Vaccinated
Indoors Masks in indoor public spaces	It’s fairly safe to go without a mask if you wish. You may still be required to wear a mask at some locations (e.g. a businesses, employers, etc.). Social distancing is also less important for people who are vaccinated.	It is still strongly recommended that you wear a mask indoors. Going without a mask puts you at risk of getting COVID or spreading it to others around you. You should also continue social distancing when possible.
Outdoors Masks in outdoor public spaces	It’s safe to go without a mask outdoors if you wish. You may still be required to wear a mask at some locations (e.g. a businesses, employers, etc.).	The risk is lower outdoors than indoors, but it is still recommended that you wear a mask when outdoors if 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained.

*Fully Vaccinated means: You have received all doses (2 doses for Pfizer or Moderna, or 1 dose for Johnson & Johnson) and at least 2 weeks have passed since your final dose.

Mask Guidance for Organizations & Businesses

The UG is no longer requiring masks or social distancing in Wyandotte County. However, some organizations in the county may establish their own policies.

- Businesses and organizations may choose to implement mask requirements for their workers, customers, members, visitors, etc.
 - For example: a business could require employees to wear masks while at work and require customers to wear a mask in order to enter the business
- School boards may choose to implement mask requirements for faculty, staff, students, and visitors.
- Community members are likely to be asked to wear a mask in health-related settings such as clinics and doctor's offices.

Events and Gatherings

If you are planning a large gathering or event, here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

- If everyone attending is vaccinated, it is fine to go without masks
- If people in attendance are not vaccinated, or you are uncertain of the vaccination status of attendees, please encourage people who are not vaccinated to wear masks. You may want to consider asking everyone to wear masks as an extra precaution.
- If it is possible to keep a list of attendees, this can help for contact tracing if there were cases or an outbreak following the event.
- Make hand hygiene accessible by offering places to wash hands or by providing hand sanitizer.
- Consider offering a mobile COVID-19 vaccine clinic or including COVID-19 vaccines as part of your event. Submit a mobile vaccine request at WycoVaccines.org or by calling 3-1-1.

Masks in Unified Government Facilities

Visitors will be required to wear a mask upon entry to any Unified Government facility, including the UG Public Health Department's vaccination sites.

Continued Importance of Vaccines and Testing

The CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccination for people age 12 and older. The UGPHD continues to provide free COVID-19 vaccinations for anyone age 12 and older, with or without an appointment, and with no health insurance needed. Additionally, free COVID-19 saliva tests are available at the UGPHD vaccination sites, and testing can now be delivered to a person's home by submitting a request online or by calling 3-1-1. Testing is still strongly recommended for anyone who has symptoms, and for unvaccinated people with a known exposure to COVID-19 or as a general precaution, such as before or after travel.

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

CDC Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provide guidance on masks. This guidance notes that it is relatively safe for people who are fully vaccinated to go without masks in most settings,

including indoor public spaces. People who are unvaccinated or not yet fully vaccinated are strongly urged to continue wearing masks in public settings.

Learn more about the CDC's guidance on masks: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

Media Inquiries: Janell Friesen
Public Health Department Public Information Officer
Wyandotte County, Kansas
Office: (913) 573-6703
Cell: (913) 428-9622
jfriesen@wycokck.org

Community Information and Questions:

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

Other COVID-19 updates: Go to wycokck.org/COVID-19

---end---