



Ian P. Hoffman, MD, MPH
Humboldt County Health Officer
529 I Street, Eureka, CA 95501
phone: (707) 445-6200 | fax: (707) 445-6097

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Dear Humboldt County summer youth program providers,

As we enter a new phase of the COVID-19 response with over 70,000 residents in our county with at least one shot of COVID-19 vaccine, many questions are arising around summer youth programs, masking, distancing, testing and travel. Please note that for now Humboldt County Public Health recommends to continue masking all youth programs, indoor and outdoor, based on current CDPH and CDC guidance, unless otherwise allowed by CDPH/CDC guidance in a setting where everyone is fully vaccinated (staff and youth attendees). Continued masking outdoors in youth settings is due to our ongoing high community transmission of COVID-19 in Humboldt County and the Northern California region. This will be assessed periodically and updated when community transmission and hospitalizations are at a sustained lower level.

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

- **Does anyone need to continue to wear masks outdoors?**

In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, per [CDC recommendations](#), in areas of [substantial to high transmission](#), people who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated. Currently Humboldt County and Northern California are an area of substantial to high transmission.

- **Will unvaccinated children and youth be required or recommended to wear a mask during recess outdoors if they cannot maintain physical distancing?**

In general, unvaccinated children and youth do not need to wear a mask outdoors, even if they cannot maintain physical distancing. However, per [CDC recommendations](#), in areas of [substantial to high transmission](#), people who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact (including high-risk contact sports) with other people who are not fully vaccinated. Currently Humboldt County and Northern California are an area of substantial to high transmission.

- **Are youth required to mask when physically exerting themselves?**

Masks should be worn at most times with a few exceptions. A mask should not be worn if it obstructs breathing, in situations of higher intensity activity, like sports, running, or when water is present and masks may become wet. This is consistent with previous guidance on youth sports from CDPH and CDC.

- **What is covered under "youth settings"?**

"Youth settings" include K-12 schools and child care, and also cover day camps for youth, youth sports and other youth activities, including theater and music performances and band. Updated CDC guidance is forthcoming for youth settings.

- **Will this guidance change once the new CDC recommendations for K-12 are released?**

CDPH and HCPH are closely monitoring anticipated updates from the CDC regarding K-12 and other youth settings and will update recommendations at that time.

- **Do fully vaccinated staff need to wear a mask in a K-12 and other youth settings?**

Masks are not required for fully vaccinated individuals, except in the settings where masks are required for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, which currently include K-12 and other youth settings. In other settings where no youth are present, like an office space that youth do not enter, employees should follow Cal OSHA guidance for the workplace.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Face-Coverings-QA.aspx#>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>



DHHS Administration
phone: (707) 441-5400
fax: (707) 441-5412

Behavioral Health
phone: (707) 268-2990
fax: (707) 476-4049

Social Services
phone: (707) 476-4700
fax: (707) 441-2096

- **What about youth settings where everyone (staff and all youth attendees) are fully vaccinated?**

If all staff and attendees in a youth setting are fully vaccinated* as defined in [CDPH's Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Persons](#), youth settings may operate without any additional public health recommendations beyond existing [Health and Safety and California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 3205](#). This means they can operate without masks or distancing. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Overnight-Camps.aspx>

- **What is the CDC mask guidance for operating summer youth camps and other summer youth programs?**

When people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask correctly, they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Given evidence of limited transmission of COVID-19 outdoors, [12](#), [13](#), [14](#), [15](#), [16](#), [17](#) CDC has updated their guidance for outdoor mask use among people who are not fully vaccinated.

Camp programs should encourage people who are not fully vaccinated and [those who might need extra precautions](#) to wear a mask consistently and correctly:

- **Indoors.** Mask use indoors is strongly encouraged for people who are not fully vaccinated including children. No child under the age of 2 should wear a mask.
- **Outdoors.** In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, particularly in areas of [substantial to high transmission](#), people who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated. **Currently Humboldt County and Northern California are an area of substantial to high transmission.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>

- **What about testing in summer youth settings? What is Pre-entry Testing?**

Youth settings can improve safety by using selected testing. Pre-entry testing is testing performed prior to someone entering an event, competition, congregate setting, or other venue or business which can reduce the risk of spreading infection for people who are entering these settings. Symptomatic individuals should not be allowed to enter.

- **Who should receive Pre-entry Testing?**

Non-vaccinated Individuals

Individuals should have pre-entry testing performed if they have not been fully vaccinated [\[1\]](#) and will be taking part in activities that put them or others at higher risk for COVID-19 exposure. Pre-entry testing should be considered for those attending large indoor social or mass gatherings (such as large private events, live performance events, sporting events, theme parks, etc.), **competing in high risk sports**, or other events in crowded or poorly-ventilated settings.

Vaccinated Individuals

Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to undergo pre-entry testing.

- **Should individuals who are traveling have pre-entry (pre-travel) testing?**

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated and must travel should follow pre-entry (pre-travel) testing recommendations in [CDC travel guidance](#) before and after travel. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Updated-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance.aspx>

- **What should we do if we are travelling before a K-12 and other youth settings this summer?**

The state of California has removed its travel advisory as of June 15. They now point to the CDC travel recommendations which depend on vaccination status of the traveler as well as destination. While no local travel restrictions are in place, CDPH recommends following the CDC recommendations for domestic and international travel, especially around testing pre and post travel. Consider quarantining after travel. When travel is non-essential and higher risk (out of state, international), quarantine is



strongly encouraged. CDC has put together tips for safer travel with unvaccinated children. Vaccinated persons should only test when required for travel based on destination.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-risk.html>

- **What is non-essential travel of unvaccinated persons? When can I travel safely without testing/quarantine?**

Except in connection with essential travel, Californians should avoid non-essential travel outside of California, to other states or countries unless they are fully vaccinated. Non-essential travelers leaving California who are not fully vaccinated should get tested with a viral test 1-3 days before travel, and get tested 3-5 days upon arrival to their destination ([CDC travel guidance](#)). They should stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel, even if their test is negative. Non-essential travelers leaving California who are not fully vaccinated and don't get tested should stay home and [self-quarantine](#) for 10 days after travel.

"Non-essential travel" includes travel that is considered [tourism or recreational in nature](#).

"Essential travel" is travel associated with the operation, maintenance, or usage of critical infrastructure or otherwise required or expressly authorized by law (including other applicable state and local public health directives), including work and study, critical infrastructure support, economic services and supply chains, health, immediate medical care, and safety and security. Persons who routinely cross state or country borders for essential travel do not need to quarantine.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Travel-Advisory.aspx>

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