



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment



COLORADO
State Emergency
Operations Center ^(L)

State updates school guidance ahead of the school year

Statewide, (July 30, 2021): The state updated the [practical guide for operationalizing school guidance](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_covid19.colorado.gov_practical-2Dguide-2Dfor-2Doperationalizing-2Dcdc-2Dschoo-2Dguidance&d=DwMFaQ&c=sdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs&r=PnKX2o6V5rT28C01uT2jQaey7O9MLRgTjftfZ9p6mrl&m=gnFdPk22DDaFAUy87Vk-ZOWQWQCLsf4W8i2YX-6fTg&e=)) today, recommending that local public health agencies and school districts consider either mask requirements for all unvaccinated individuals-- or a masking requirement for all individuals in schools, particularly in higher-risk environments. The updated guidance comes in response to the CDC releasing new guidance earlier this week and as the state defends itself against the Delta variant.

While the state guidance outlines how local districts and governments can operationalize CDC guidance, it is distinct in providing greater options for schools. The CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) [practical guide for operationalizing school guidance](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_covid19.colorado.gov_practical-2Dguide-2Dfor-2Doperationalizing-2Dcdc-2Dschoo-2Dguidance&d=DwMFaQ&c=sdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs&r=PnKX2o6V5rT28C01uT2jQaey7O9MLRgTjftfZ9p6mrl&m=gnFdPk22DDaFAUy87Vk-ZOWQWQCLsf4W8i2YX-6fTg&e=)) has been updated to reflect these new guidelines on masking in schools. This guide is designed to help schools operationalize public health recommendations and goes into effect Aug. 1, 2021.

"We all want children to be back at school and as safe as possible. Masks will help us slow the spread of the Delta variant and avoid school closures," said Rachel Herlihy, state epidemiologist, CDPHE. "Masks are an added layer of protection, as we hope that even more children ages 12+ will get vaccinated."

Because many students have yet to be vaccinated and students under 12 are not yet eligible, state officials agree that schools need to take thoughtful mitigation steps to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and prevent school outbreaks.

The guide is geared toward disease control and minimizing the risk of exposure in education settings. But we know students' wellness extends well beyond just disease control. Schools, educators, parents, and students must balance all of the needs of our students in order to achieve wellness and create a productive learning environment.

Access the [Practical Guide for Operationalizing School Guidance](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_covid19.colorado.gov_practical-2Dguide-2Dfor-2Doperationalizing-2Dcdc-2Dschool-2Dguidance&d=DwMFaQ&c=sdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs&r=PnKX2o6V5rT28C01uT2jQaey7O9MlRgTjftfZ9p6mrl&m=gnFdPk22DDaFAUy87Vk-ZOWQWQCLsf4W8i2YX-6fTg&e=)) ([https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_covid19.colorado.gov_practical-2Dguide-2Dfor-2Doperationalizing-2Dcdc-2Dschool-2Dguidance&d=DwMFaQ&c=sdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs&r=PnKX2o6V5rT28C01uT2jQaey7O9MlRgTjftfZ9p6mrl&m=gnFdPk22DDaFAUy87Vk-ZOWQWQCLsf4W8i2YX-6fTg&e=\)](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_covid19.colorado.gov_practical-2Dguide-2Dfor-2Doperationalizing-2Dcdc-2Dschool-2Dguidance&d=DwMFaQ&c=sdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs&r=PnKX2o6V5rT28C01uT2jQaey7O9MlRgTjftfZ9p6mrl&m=gnFdPk22DDaFAUy87Vk-ZOWQWQCLsf4W8i2YX-6fTg&e=))).

Continue to stay up to date by visiting [covid19.colorado.gov](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_covid19.colorado.gov_&d=DwMFaQ&c=sdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs&r=PnKX2o6V5rT28C01uT2jQaey7O9MlRgTjftfZ9p6mrl&m=sQJYBZHfY&e=)) ([https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_covid19.colorado.gov_&d=DwMFaQ&c=sdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs&r=PnKX2o6V5rT28C01uT2jQaey7O9MlRgTjftfZ9p6mrl&m=sQJYBZHfY&e=\)](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_covid19.colorado.gov_&d=DwMFaQ&c=sdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs&r=PnKX2o6V5rT28C01uT2jQaey7O9MlRgTjftfZ9p6mrl&m=sQJYBZHfY&e=))).

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Recent

[Comeback Cash Gift Card vaccine giveaways continue throughout the state August 11-13 \(/press-release/comeback-cash-gift-card-vaccine-giveaways-continue-throughout-the-state-august-11-13\)](/press-release/comeback-cash-gift-card-vaccine-giveaways-continue-throughout-the-state-august-11-13)

STATEWIDE, (August 10, 2021): Comeback Cash gift card vaccine giveaways and additional mobile and pop-up vaccination clinics continue throughout the state this week.

[Read More \(/press-release/comeback-cash-gift-card-vaccine-giveaways-continue-throughout-the-state-august-11-13\)](/press-release/comeback-cash-gift-card-vaccine-giveaways-continue-throughout-the-state-august-11-13)

Press Release

[CDPHE reminds Coloradans to get tested for COVID-19 if they have symptoms \(/press-release/cdphe-reminds-coloradans-to-get-tested-for-covid-19-if-they-have-symptoms\)](/press-release/cdphe-reminds-coloradans-to-get-tested-for-covid-19-if-they-have-symptoms)

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment wants to remind everyone, regardless of vaccination status, to get tested for COVID-19 immediately and isolate if they have symptoms.

[Read More \(/press-release/cdphe-reminds-coloradans-to-get-tested-for-covid-19-if-they-have-symptoms\)](/press-release/cdphe-reminds-coloradans-to-get-tested-for-covid-19-if-they-have-symptoms)

Press Release

Comeback Cash gift card stops throughout the state at mobile and pop-up vaccination clinics August 7-10 (/press-release/comeback-cash-gift-card-stops-throughout-the-state-at-mobile-and-pop-up-vaccination-0)

STATEWIDE, (August 6, 2021): The State and its partners will continue to host Comeback Cash gift card stops and additional clinics throughout the state into next week, including Aurora Pride on...


[Read More \(/press-release/comeback-cash-gift-card-stops-throughout-the-state-at-mobile-and-pop-up-vaccination-0\)](/press-release/comeback-cash-gift-card-stops-throughout-the-state-at-mobile-and-pop-up-vaccination-0).

Press Release

Contact

Media line (for media only): 303-900-2849

CO-HELP (<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/co-help>) - Colorado's call line for general questions about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), providing answers in many languages including English, Spanish (Español), Mandarin (普通话) and more.

 Call 303-389-1687 or (877) 462-2911.

[Request a website change \(https://forms.gle/PLiDz5cQ4tjA3Q2R9\)](https://forms.gle/PLiDz5cQ4tjA3Q2R9).

IMPORTANT: If you have symptoms and think you have been exposed, call a health care provider.

Resources

[CDPHE main website \(https://colorado.gov/cdphe\)](https://colorado.gov/cdphe).

[Colorado Emergency Management \(http://www.coemergency.com/\)](http://www.coemergency.com/).

[Stay at home Colorado guide \(https://stayathomeco.colorado.gov/\)](https://stayathomeco.colorado.gov/).

State resource for COVID-19 information (<https://covid.colorado.gov/>).

OnwardCO.org (https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_onwardco.org&d=DwMFaQ&c=sdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs&r=tKhU0U_L2xbjslo_eJnBsIU8HnLQ6GQZw39EuQXQSA&m=dXFns-1XqmnyYaKrsVZJ2pb30IHqibGVNQgDMdDn4kQ&s=LHbqsUuqwfec-ngL7MhT1soU14t2zdketeXX6EflmtU&e=) - One-stop resource for Coloradans impacted by job loss to connect with life essentials, training, and jobs.

Colorado Crisis Services (<https://coloradocrisisservices.org/>) - Free, confidential, professional, and immediate support for any mental health, substance use, or emotional concern, 24/7/365.

☎️ Call 1-844-493-TALK (8255) or text TALK to 38255 to speak to a trained professional.

211 Colorado (<https://www.211colorado.org/>) - Confidential and multilingual service connecting people to vital resources across the state.

☎️ Call 2-11 or (866) 760-6489 📠 Text your ZIP CODE to 898-211.

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Additional languages

Español (https://drive.google.com/open?id=1wvUvHmRb1EgsjT0_tMebKjbJAryWs3ol) (Spanish) | **Tiếng Việt** (<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1kuJOG5xvziW8QnGlatjYXXKg946kWSkr>) (Vietnamese) |

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