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## Winnebago County COVID-19 Recommendations

Updated 8/6/21

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) issues the following recommendations to serve as guidelines to control the transmission of COVID-19 throughout our communities.

Guidance varies dependent on your vaccination status based on the most recent [CDC guidance](#). A person is considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 if it has been two or more weeks since they received the second dose in a two-dose series (e.g. Pfizer or Moderna) or one dose of a single-dose vaccine (e.g. Johnson & Johnson).

Vaccination is the primary way to prevent spread of COVID-19. All the available vaccines are [very safe](#) and highly effective at preventing severe symptoms due to the illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself, your family, and your community from the risks of COVID-19. [Vaccines are widely available](#) throughout Winnebago County. If you are [eligible](#), get vaccinated. Employers and organizations are highly encouraged to promote vaccination. For assistance in setting up an on-site vaccination clinic, contact the health department at 920-232-3026 or [health@co.winnebago.wi.us](mailto:health@co.winnebago.wi.us).

**WCHD recommends following the most recent CDC guidance.** The following recommendations apply to non-healthcare settings.

### Fully vaccinated people can:

- Participate in many of the activities that they did before the pandemic.
- Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
- Refrain from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination) and refrain from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States.
- Refrain from routine screening testing if feasible.

### For now, fully vaccinated people should:

- Wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of [substantial or high transmission](#).
  - Fully vaccinated people may choose to mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised or at [increased risk for severe disease](#), or if someone in their household is unvaccinated. People who are at increased risk for severe disease include older adults and those who have certain medical conditions, such as diabetes, overweight or obesity, and heart conditions.
- Get tested if experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Get tested 3-5 days after close contact to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days after exposure or until a negative test result.

- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, *regardless of vaccination status*, should get tested and isolate until test results are known.
- Isolate if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days or are experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Follow any applicable federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations.
- Follow [CDC](#) travel requirements and recommendations.

These are the settings where **everyone, even if fully vaccinated**, should continue to wear masks.

- [Healthcare settings](#)
- [K-12 schools](#), including [school buses](#)
- Places where masks are required by local or tribal laws, rules, and regulations, including local businesses and workplaces
- Areas with [substantial to high community transmission](#)
- Correctional and detention facilities and homeless shelters
- All forms of [public transportation](#) (including planes, buses, [school buses](#), and trains) traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

**For unvaccinated people**, masking, distancing, and avoiding crowded indoor environments are the most effective ways to prevent spread and protect yourself. To help you determine the risk level and choose safer activities, use this [CDC chart](#).

**For businesses and organizations:**

- **Encourage all staff to mask up and consider if a masking policy is necessary.** This applies to both staff and customers (via signage). Please visit [CDC guidance](#) page for more information.
- **Encourage vaccination** among your staff. COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from getting sick. Offering paid time off, flexible scheduling, and incentives for staff to get vaccinated are all ways to boost your staff vaccination rate.
- **Have a plan if an employee is sick or was exposed.** Be familiar with [what to do if you have an employee who is sick or exposed to someone with COVID-19](#).
  - *New CDC recommendation* – Fully vaccinated people who have come into [close contact](#) with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 need to be tested 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, *regardless of vaccination status*, should get tested and isolate until test results are known.
- **Continue to offer customers and staff flexibility that works for your business.** Earlier in the pandemic, you might have offered your customers new options, like carryout or curbside service. Your staff may have been able to work from home or have a more flexible schedule. Continue to offer customers and staff flexibility that works for your business.
- **Host a vaccination clinic** either for your staff or for the community on your premises. Consider anonymously polling your staff to determine how many are vaccinated. If you are a large employer, this can help you assess vaccination rates among different departments, which can aid in your planning.
- **Retain policies for hygiene, employee illness, and cleaning.** These policies prevent the spread of illnesses like COVID-19, flu, and whooping cough, as well as the spread of viruses like norovirus.
- **Review and implement [CDC's sector-specific guidance](#) to reduce risk.** This guidance for your sector may include things like increasing ventilation, specific cleaning procedures, etc.

## Resources

- CDC Choosing Safer Activities <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/pdfs/choosingSaferAct.pdf>
- DHS Mask Guidance: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/mask.htm>
- DHS Staying Safe in Your Community - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community.htm>
- Winnebago County Vaccine Information – <https://www.wcvaccine.org>
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Guidance What You Should Know About COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Other EEO Laws: <https://www.eeoc.gov/wysk/what-you-should-know-about-covid-19-and-ada-rehabilitation-act-and-other-eeo-laws>
- OSHA Guidance by Industry: <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/guidance/industry>
- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Vaccine Guidance for All Businesses - [https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WEDC\\_DHS\\_COVID-19-Vaccine-Guidelines-2.pdf](https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WEDC_DHS_COVID-19-Vaccine-Guidelines-2.pdf)
- For related information for healthcare settings, visit [Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

Please see the Winnebago County Health Department [website](#) for the most up-to-date guidance and resources.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe. Everyone can play a role in encouraging and helping others to get vaccinated - [talking to your family, friends, and neighbors](#) can make a difference in vaccine acceptance. Your efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 are greatly appreciated by those who live, work, and play in Winnebago County.