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To promote and protect the health and well-being of Kings County residents through education, prevention, and intervention.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Universal Face Coverings Requirement and Other COVID-19 Updates**

**Hanford, CA** – The California Department of Public Health updated its masking guidance adding a temporary requirement for universal masking indoors statewide effective December 15, 2021 through January 15, 2022.

“To ensure that we collectively protect the health and well-being of all Californians; keep schools open for in-person instruction and allow California’s economy to remain open and thrive, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is requiring masks be worn in all indoor public settings, irrespective of vaccine status, for the next four weeks (December 15, 2021 through January 15, 2022).”

The precautionary measure intended to protect the health of the public as we continue to learn more about the Omicron variant, and an additional layer of protection during the holidays, when people tend to travel more and spend more time gathering indoors. Statewide hospitalizations have also increased in recent weeks, and appropriate masking can help slow community transmission enough to keep vulnerable populations out of the hospital, thereby helping keep hospital services readily available to everyone who needs them.

There is mounting evidence of the effectiveness of masks, when worn correctly. According to CDPH “Nationally, during the Delta surge in July and August 2021, jurisdictions without mask requirements in schools experienced larger increases in pediatric case rates, and school outbreaks were 3.5 times more likely in areas without school mask requirements.”

The Kings County Department of Public Health does not plan to issue any additional local requirements or more restrictive face covering guidance than the State at this time. A summary of current face covering guidance, tips, and links to additional information can be found on [www.kcdph.com/COVID19](http://www.kcdph.com/COVID19).

### **Mega Events Vaccine Status/Testing**

Effective December 15<sup>th</sup>, testing for Mega Events is required to be conducted within one day for antigen tests and within two days for PCR tests prior to entry into the facility or venue for those that cannot provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination status.

Mega Events are defined as crowds greater than 1,000 attendees for indoors, and 10,000 attendees outdoors. Proof of vaccine verification/negative test is required for indoor mega events

and recommended for outdoor mega events.

### **Travel Advisory**

The State is also issuing the following recommendations, which supersede all prior Travel Advisories:

- All travelers arriving in or returning to California from other states or countries should follow CDC travel guidance.
- All travelers arriving in or returning to California from other states or countries should test 3-5 days upon arrival.
- All travelers who test positive or develop symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate and follow public health recommendations.

The Kings County Department of Public Health continues to urge the public to take all COVID-19 prevention measures appropriate for them:

- Get vaccinated; to schedule an appointment visit: <https://myturn.ca.gov/>
- Wear a face covering, regardless of your vaccine status, to protect yourself and those who cannot get vaccinated at this time
- Get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms
- Stay home if you are sick

Visit [www.kcdph.com/COVID19](http://www.kcdph.com/COVID19) for current information and guidance.