

May 14, 2021

HEALTH ADVISORY:

Masking and social distancing for those not vaccinated

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This document will be updated as new information becomes available.

St. Louis County Department of Public Health (DPH) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DPH.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

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**FROM: Dr. Faisal Khan, Acting Director
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SUBJECT: St. Louis County Residents Who Are Not Fully Vaccinated Should Continue Masking and Practicing Social Distancing

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, continues to circulate widely in the community, leading to illness, hospitalizations, and deaths. People who are not fully vaccinated (those who are not at least two weeks post-completion of a vaccination series) remain at risk of contracting and transmitting the virus.

To protect their own health and the health of people around them, it is vital that those not fully vaccinated continue to wear a face covering when in public around other people, practice social distancing, and maintain other CDC-recommended measures to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2.

The CDC continues to advise people who are not vaccinated to wear a mask, stay at least six feet away from others who do not live in the same household, avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces, and wash hands often with soap and water.

Because people who are not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 may still be infected and transmit the virus to others, unvaccinated people should continue to follow these recommendations regardless of whether they feel sick.

Vaccines, which are highly effective at preventing disease transmission, severe illness, and death, are now available for all individuals 12 years old and older. Those who are fully vaccinated, meaning that they have received all necessary doses and waited the required period, may resume most activities without wearing masks or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. Fully vaccinated people should continue to wear a mask in healthcare settings, correctional facilities, and homeless shelters. All travelers, including fully vaccinated individuals, are required to wear a mask on all forms of public transportation and in transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

Information about how to get vaccinated can be found at stlcorona.com/covid19-vaccines/.

Additional information on Masking and Social Distancing can be found here:

- 1 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>
- 2 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>
- 3 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>