



Mendocino County Public Health Department

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Dr. Andrew Coren, County Health Officer



Press Release

Not for op-ed

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TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA

FR: MENDOCINO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Notice: Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren continues to order masking in most indoor settings due to current COVID-19 case and hospitalization numbers, effective February 15, 2022.

The Health Officer had previously issued a universal indoor masking order in October 2021 and updated it in January 2022 after local and statewide trends showed an increase in COVID cases due to the Omicron variant. A new exemption has been added to this current Health Order that all may remove their masks in venues where the operator/organizer can show documentation (not including self-attestation) that all attendees including presenters/performers and maintenance staff have been vaccinated and boosted.

While Mendocino County appears to be recovering from the Omicron surge based on a decrease in reported cases from PCR testing, this data is believed to be an undercount because it does not include all positive antigen test results. The County also continues to be an area of highest risk, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), with "[High Community Transmission](#)."

Furthermore, the County's COVID-19 hospitalization and ICU rates are still higher than they were during the Delta surge. Since February 1, Mendocino County has had less than 10% ICU capacity. On some days, there are 0 or 1 ICU beds available, compared to California overall, which currently has 18-20% ICU capacity. This adds stress for local hospitals and their staff and delays other medical procedures.

"We will continue to assess the COVID-19 situation as it evolves and will reevaluate the need for continued universal masking orders on March 15, 2022, based on community transmission and burden to the local hospital system. For now, continued masking will protect our residents as we are still at the highest CDC risk level," explained Dr. Coren.

The Health Officer strongly recommends that all eligible persons in the County be vaccinated and boosted to protect against severe COVID and death. If you have questions about boosters or vaccines in general, speak with your doctor, or call Public Health at 707-472-2759. To find the nearest vaccine clinic in your area, please visit the Public Health website at:

www.mendocinocounty.org/covidvaccine