



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20210728-00528-ALT (Health Alert)  
**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and Healthcare Providers –  
Statewide  
Wednesday, July 28, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Updated Public Health Guidance for Mask Use in Public Indoor Settings

**Mississippi is experiencing substantial and high levels of transmission of COVID-19, with increased cases, hospitalizations, and numerous outbreaks in multiple settings, including faith-based gatherings, funerals, social events, and long-term care settings.**

The Delta variant is the predominant strain in Mississippi accounting for an estimated 93% of cases in the state. The Delta variant is much more contagious, and spreads twice as easily compared to other strains. **The overwhelming majority of cases, hospitalizations and deaths are among unvaccinated persons**, though there have been some infections, hospitalizations and deaths seen in fully vaccinated persons. Some fully vaccinated persons who become infected may be contagious.

Aligned with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommends the following steps for all Mississippians to control the spread of COVID-19:

- Get a COVID-19 vaccination if you are eligible.
- **MSDH recommends everyone (including those who are fully vaccinated) wear a mask in public indoor settings.**
- If you test positive for COVID-19, even if fully vaccinated, you should isolate for at least 10 days from the beginning of your symptoms or from your test date if you have no symptoms.
- **If you are exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should get tested 3-5 days following exposure.** If you are not fully vaccinated, you should quarantine for at least 10 days after exposure (fully vaccinated persons do not have to quarantine after exposure, but should get tested).
- If you are 65 years of age or older, you should avoid all indoor mass gatherings, even if you have been vaccinated.
- If you have a chronic medical condition, you should avoid all indoor mass gatherings, even if you have been vaccinated.

Regards,

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State Epidemiologist

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