

INDOOR MASK DIRECTIVE

Guidance for Businesses



Business owners have options for how to implement indoor mask guidance in their establishments.

As there is no easy way to check vaccination status of everyone who enters a building, King County's Local Health Officer Directive **strongly urges businesses to continue implementing mask mandates for all employees and customers** in indoor settings.

Action	Required (by DOH or L&I)	Strongly Encouraged (by King County Directive)	Business' Choice
Post signs communicating that masks are required for unvaccinated and partially vaccinated people in languages the business uses most	X	Post signs that encourage mask use by everyone	
FOR EMPLOYEES:			
Require mask use for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated employees	X		
Require mask use for fully vaccinated employees		X	X
Require proof of vaccination from employees in order to work without masks	Required if businesses allow fully vaccinated employees to work without masks		X
FOR CUSTOMERS:			
Require mask use for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated customers	X		
Require mask use for fully vaccinated customers		X	X
Ask for proof of vaccination from customers			X

The above chart details what is required and recommended by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), Washington Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) and Public Health - Seattle & King County.



Requiring masks is the **SAFEST** and **SIMPLEST WAY** to protect your employees, customers, and community.

However, if you choose to allow *fully vaccinated* employees and customers to go without masks, here is what you could do while still following the mask Directive:

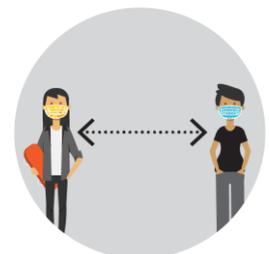
1. **Verify the vaccination status of everyone** entering the space. Acceptable forms of vaccination documentation include:
 - CDC vaccination card
 - A photo of the card
 - Documentation from a healthcare provider
 - Documentation from the state immunization information system



Evidence of this verification system must be available to L&I upon request. Verifying employee vaccination status is a requirement from L&I if businesses allow employees to work without masks.

2. **Create a system or process to monitor that unvaccinated people continue to wear a mask.** This might look like:
 - Creating vaccinated-specific sections within the building, with a minimum of 6 feet distance from unvaccinated sections
 - Designating certain times of the day when masks are required for all customers and other times specifically for fully vaccinated customers who may not be required to wear masks.

3. **People who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated must wear a mask and maintain physical distancing at all times.**



For further questions, contact coronavirus@kingcounty.gov.

The Local Health Officer Directive (May 20, 2021) will remain in effect until King County confirms that 70% of residents age 16 and older are fully vaccinated in King County. Once this is achieved, **businesses will still be required to follow DOH and L&I mask requirements listed in this document.**

Learn more about [DOH Face Covering Guidance for businesses](#).