



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department adapts recommendations to new CDC guidance

Eau Claire, WI May 20, 2021 - The Health Department is adapting their recommendations in light of recently updated [CDC guidance](#) and the decision by the Eau Claire City Council and County Board to end the local face mask ordinances. **Unvaccinated people should still be wearing masks and physically distancing in public spaces. All individuals should continue to mask in certain settings**, including healthcare settings, schools, correctional facilities, public transportation, shelters and other places where regulations exist, such as businesses or workplaces.

Nearly 56% of people are unvaccinated and 1 in 7 people are not yet able to be vaccinated in our community. As a result, the Health Department continues to provide recommendations for staying safe in your community (including guidance for individuals, public spaces, and gatherings) and will still offer consultation to event planners so that larger gatherings can be held in safer ways as COVID-19 cases continue to occur in the community. The Health Department also continues the critically important public health work of disease and outbreak investigations, contact tracing, testing, isolation and quarantine, and public notification of exposures to COVID-19 when contacts cannot be reached.

“The good news is that vaccines are working and are our best path forward with this pandemic,” Eau Claire City-County Health Department Director Lieske Giese stated. “We want to thank the community for continuing to follow recommendations. **Our community is in a place where the risk is lower, but we are not in a place of no risk, and it’s very important for those who are able to get vaccinated.** By continuing to follow these recommendations, we can protect the community members who are not able to be protected by the vaccine.” Data will continue to be monitored by the Health Department in the case of a concerning change in number of cases or outbreaks.

The Eau Claire County COVID-19 Community Expectations are also being lifted, effective today. This includes lifting capacity expectations for public spaces. However, many people will have different levels of comfort for themselves or their families, and businesses may choose to maintain masking or capacity policies. As a community, it is important to support one another and show kindness as we navigate this phase of the pandemic together.

To view the Health Department recommendations for staying safe in your community, please visit covid19eauclaire.org.



CDC GUIDANCE FOR MASKS

EVERYONE, even if you're fully vaccinated, should continue to wear masks in:

- Organizations and businesses that have mask required policies
- Health care settings
- K-12 schools (including school buses)
- Correctional and detention facilities, and homeless shelters
- On all planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation

NOT VACCINATED?

Continue to wear a mask at required places and in public spaces, and stay 6 feet apart from others. Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.

VACCINATED?

You can resume activities without wearing a mask (unless required) or staying 6 feet apart.

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Promoting health and safety for all Eau Claire communities