



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Audrey Boerner
Public Information Officer, Eau Claire COVID-19 response
Audrey.boerner@co.eau-claire.wi.us, (715) 579-5962

Mask indoors as Eau Claire County reaches “substantial” community transmission of COVID-19

Eau Claire, WI- July 30, 2021 – New guidance from the CDC released on Tuesday, July 27 recommended masks for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, in areas of [substantial or high community transmission](#). This guidance also indicated anyone who visits, works, or learns in a K-12 school setting should wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. As of today, CDC data show that cases are **rising, and Eau Claire County now has a substantial level of community transmission (disease spread)**

“Many people have gotten vaccinated to protect themselves, their families, and our community from more spread of this virus,” said Lieske Giese, Health Department Director. “Unfortunately, having 50.9% fully vaccinated was not enough to keep spread low. We now need to add another layer of prevention back for everyone, and that is masks.”

In alignment with CDC and WI Department of Health Services, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department is now providing the following mask guidance for Eau Claire County:

- Everyone, age 2+, is expected to wear a mask in public indoor settings, even if they have been vaccinated
- Unvaccinated people age 12+ should also consider getting vaccinated – this will make a difference. Find a COVID-19 vaccine clinic [here](#).
- All teachers, students, staff, and visitors to K-12 schools are expected to wear a mask, even if they have been vaccinated

How do masks help?

The Delta variant is the dominant virus strain in Wisconsin. This strain is much more contagious, and it is different from previous strains because it is more likely that vaccinated people can pass it on to others.

Unvaccinated people are still at the most risk of getting seriously sick or dying, and the most likely to spread the virus to others. Wearing masks when our cases are high will help to prevent strain on hospital and public health systems.

It is possible that fluctuations in cases data may lead to Eau Claire County being categorized as less than substantial transmission for short amounts of time. It appears that CDC is updating their data map daily. As long as the overall trend is increasing, we will be maintaining these recommendations and reviewing data regularly to provide the best recommendations for slowing COVID-19 spread in our community.

COVID-19 vaccine “booster” doses or any additional vaccine doses are not recommended at this time for people that are fully vaccinated. Please visit covid19eauclaire.org or call the Health Department at 715-839-4718 with questions.

###