



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

FAQ on Face Covering and Vaccination Requirements

September 3, 2021

On September 3, 2021, the Governor signed [Executive Order 21-22](#) which requires all individuals over the age of 2 and who can medically tolerate a face covering to wear a face covering when in indoor public places. The Executive Order also requires health care workers, school personnel, higher education personnel and students, and employees and contractors of state-owned or operated congregate facilities to be fully vaccinated, as described in the Order.

Face Covering Guidance

Who is required to wear a face covering indoors?

- All individuals the age of 2 or over who can medically tolerate a face covering are required to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in an indoor public place.
- All employees must wear face coverings in indoor workplaces.

What is a public indoor place?

- Public indoor places refer to indoor events, facilities, or premises in which community/persons visit or work. Public indoor places include but are not limited to businesses, retail establishments, office buildings, entertainment venues, hotel meeting rooms and ballrooms, lobby areas, indoor sports complexes, and other places of leisure.

Does the face covering requirement apply to employees who wear other safety equipment on their heads or faces?

- There are circumstances when wearing a face covering may not be possible. According to [CDC guidance for wearing masks](#), face coverings should not be worn by a person for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the [workplace risk assessment](#).

Does this guidance apply to public outdoor places?

- As recommended by the [CDC](#), individuals are encouraged, but not required, to wear face coverings in crowded outdoor settings and for activities that involve close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated, especially in communities with [higher numbers of COVID-19 cases](#).