

**Frequently Asked Questions  
About JCPH PHO 21-002 Requiring Masks for Everyone Ages 2+ and Routine  
Testing of Unvaccinated Individuals in  
Pre-K through Grade 12 Schools & Childcare Settings**

**August 16, 2021**

**ABOUT THE ORDER**

**1. What does Public Health Order 21-002 require and why was it put in place?**

Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) issued this Order to ensure safety and continued in-person learning in Pre-K-12 schools and childcares. The Order requires all individuals ages 2+ to wear a mask when indoors at school and childcare settings in Jefferson County, regardless of vaccination status. Additionally, the Order requires all unvaccinated faculty and staff, as well as all unvaccinated students and adults who are participating in school-based extracurricular activities, to undergo routine testing during the academic year. (Schools and childcares have until September 7, 2021 to implement the testing requirements in the Order).

The Order follows [CDC's Guidance for K-12 Schools](#), [CDC's Guidance for Early Childhood Education](#) and the [recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

For complete requirements for schools and childcares, [view the full Order](#).

**2. Where does this Order apply?**

Indoors at all Pre-K-12 schools and licensed childcare facilities in Jefferson County, including public, private and charter schools. This Order also applies to all buildings on school property where individuals aged 2-19 may be present for any reason, as well as any place in Jefferson County where school-based or sponsored activities are performed, even if such activities are not performed on school property.

**3. Who does the Order apply to?**

This Order applies to anyone entering a Pre-K-12 school or childcare in Jefferson County. This includes but is not limited to all students, faculty, staff, volunteers, visitors, spectators at indoor extracurricular activities, officials at indoor extracurricular activities and any others entering a school or childcare facility.

**4. Does the Order apply to private schools?**

Yes, the Order applies to all Pre-K-12 schools and licensed childcares in Jefferson County, including public, private and charter schools.

**5. Does the Order apply to institutions of higher education?**

No. However, Order 21-002 does apply to licensed childcares or Pre-K-12 schools run by an institution of higher education.

**6. Does the Order require masking outdoors?**

No. The Order only requires masking indoors.

**7. How long will the Order last?**

The Order will remain in effect until modified, amended or rescinded. Jefferson County Public Health will review data on at least a monthly basis to determine the continuing necessity of the Order and the need for any modifications.

**8. What is required under PHO 21-002, and what is recommended for schools and childcare settings?**

Summary of **Requirements** for Schools and Childcares in Jeffco:

- Masks for all individuals ages 2+ indoors in all schools, childcares and school-based extracurricular activities
- Implement a COVID-19 testing policy requiring all unvaccinated faculty and staff to be tested weekly throughout the school year
- Implement a COVID-19 testing policy requiring all unvaccinated students and adults participating in school-based extracurricular activities to be tested weekly
- Post signage that masks are required at school and childcare facilities ([signage provided in English and Spanish in the Order](#))
- Enforcement of quarantine for individuals who are unvaccinated and unmasked when exposed to an individual case, and enforcement of quarantine for all unvaccinated individuals — masked and unmasked — who are exposed in outbreaks
- Enforcement of isolation for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19
- Cooperation in case investigations and contact tracing
- Social distancing of at least six feet when masks are removed as permitted in the Order (e.g., When students are eating and drinking at meal times indoors)

Summary of **Recommendations** for Schools and Childcares in Jeffco:

- Promoting [vaccinations](#) to increase coverage among eligible students, faculty and staff
- Require [vaccinations](#) for faculty and staff, as well as all adults and eligible students participating in school-based sports and extracurricular activities
- Follow additional recommendations outlined in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's [Back to School Roadmap](#) to layer as many additional precautionary measures as feasible to keep their students, faculty and staff safe

For complete requirements for schools and childcares, [view the full Order](#).

**9. How does this Order help ensure my child can remain in-person for learning?**

[Masks are safe and well known to reduce the transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19](#). By having universal masking and other mitigation strategies in place, routine classroom exposure quarantines can be avoided. However, anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate.

**10. If my child is properly masked and exposed to an individual with COVID-19, will they be required to quarantine?**

No. However, if they are unvaccinated, they will be required to quarantine if they are identified as part of an outbreak.

**11. Are there any exemptions or exceptions to the Order?**

The following individuals are exempt from mask/face covering requirements of this Order:

- Individuals under age 2.
- Individuals who cannot medically tolerate a mask/face covering (i.e., those with a 504).
- Individuals who require special educational service needs that cannot be conducted while wearing a mask/face covering (i.e., those with a 504 or an IEP).

Additionally, individuals performing any of the following activities are exempt from the mask/face covering requirements of this Order while the activity is being performed:

- Individuals who are hearing impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication.
- Individuals seated during meal and snack time and who are actively eating or drinking. However, individuals must be seated at least six (6) feet apart during meal and snack time or these activities must occur outdoors.
- Individuals who are asked to temporarily remove their mask for identification purposes in furtherance of a particular service requiring legal identification.
- Individuals who are actively engaged in a public safety role, such as law enforcement personnel, firefighters or emergency medical personnel.
- Individuals who are receiving a medical service where the temporary removal of a mask is necessary to perform the service.
- Individuals who are in a swimming pool and actively engaged in a pool activity in which their mask might become wet.

- When a student in a school setting for academic credit is actively playing an instrument that cannot otherwise be played while wearing a mask and such student is at least six (6) feet from all other individuals in the room.
- Individuals who are actively napping or resting pursuant to state licensing requirements.
- Individuals who are alone in an enclosed room.
- Individuals who are officiating or participating in a religious service or practice where the temporary removal of a mask is necessary to complete or participate in the religious service or practice.

## 12. Where can I get a mask/face covering?

You can make or buy your own. Many retail stores sell masks. CDC has a [video about making your own mask](#).

## TESTING REQUIREMENTS

### 13. How do schools implement routine testing as outlined the Order?

Schools and childcares have until September 7, 2021 to implement the testing requirements in the Order. Each school can operationalize routine testing as they feel best meets their needs. Schools are encouraged to take advantage of [CDPHE's Free COVID-19 Testing Program for Colorado Schools](#).

### 14. How do schools record testing results?

Schools and childcares have until September 7, 2021 to implement the testing requirements in the Order. Each school can operationalize testing record keeping as they feel best meets their needs, as long as they can produce records upon request from JCPH during outbreak investigations.

## AUTHORITY & ENFORCEMENT

### 15. What authority does JCPH have to issue this or other Public Health Orders?

JCPH has public health jurisdiction over Jefferson County, Colorado, including all cities and towns therein. In furtherance of its jurisdiction, JCPH has the power and duty to investigate and control the causes of epidemic or communicable diseases and conditions affecting the public health within Jefferson County, as well as the power and duty to close schools and public places and to prohibit gatherings of people when necessary to protect public health, and to establish, maintain and enforce isolation and quarantine, and in pursuance thereof, to exercise physical control over property and over persons within Jefferson County as JCPH may find necessary for the protection of public health.

### 16. How is this Order enforced?

We fully expect all schools and childcares to comply with the Order to protect health and in-person learning. However, any school or licensed childcare facility that is in



violation of this Order may be subject to a civil action, reporting to the appropriate licensing agency for suspension or revocation of its license, or an immediate closure order issued by JCPH.