



Q&A: New CDC Guidance and Trinity College Masking Requirements

What are the new CDC recommendations regarding masking and fully vaccinated individuals?

The following recommendations for fully vaccinated individuals apply to non-health care settings and are as follows:

- Resume activities without wearing masks or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.
- Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel. (For now, masking is still required on planes, buses, trains and other forms of public transportation.)
- Refrain from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination), and refrain from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States.
- Refrain from testing following a known exposure, if asymptomatic, with some exceptions for specific settings (i.e. employees or residents of homeless shelters and detention facilities).
- Refrain from quarantine following a known exposure, if asymptomatic.
- Refrain from routine screening testing, if feasible.

Do the new CDC masking recommendations mean fully vaccinated students and faculty don't have to wear masks anymore?

No. Based on updated CDC guidance for fully vaccinated individuals, masks are no longer required in most settings and for most activities—with some exceptions, which includes health care settings. Guidance for health care settings remains unchanged at this time, and students and faculty who work in facilities where patient care is provided must continue to follow universal masking guidance.

If I'm fully vaccinated, why do I need to continue to wear a mask while at clinical?

While the CDC updates around masking are promising, the updated guidance does not apply to health care settings. Community guidance is not meant to be applied to health care settings where exposure risk may be higher and additional precautions are necessary to protect our vulnerable patient populations. Our clinical leaders are keeping an eye on transmission and vaccination data as well as data to understand more about the level of protection in fully vaccinated individuals with weakened immune systems. For those reasons, everyone should continue masking while in our facilities where patient care is provided. In addition, students must wear a mask during clinical simulations in lab settings on campus.

If I'm fully vaccinated, do I need to wear my mask while on the Trinity College campus?

No. Fully vaccinated Trinity College campus community members no longer need to wear masks at the College. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last dose of the vaccine. Trinity College remains “mask friendly” and welcomes anyone who wants to wear a mask for any reason.

Masks are required in laboratory settings on campus.



How will the College determine who is fully vaccinated?

Trinity College campus community members have individual accountability for their health and the health of others. Faculty and staff are not permitted to ask students or other team members if they have been vaccinated.

If I am fully vaccinated, and the patient I am caring for says they are as well, do we need to wear our masks?

Yes. Students and faculty should continue to follow universal masking guidance while in patient care facilities, which includes masking when providing direct patient care.

Do fully vaccinated patients and visitors need to continue to wear masks?

Yes. Per CDC guidelines, all individuals in health care settings — with limited exceptions in the inpatient setting — should continue to wear their masks. This is for the patient/visitor's safety and that of immunocompromised individuals.

If a patient and visitor are both fully vaccinated, and in a patient's hospital room, can they have their masks off?

Yes. If a health care team member is not present in the room, a fully vaccinated patient and their fully vaccinated visitor may take their masks off — while in the patient's room only.

Do fully vaccinated adults with unvaccinated children still need to mask when accompanying their child to an appointment?

Yes. Based on CDC guidelines, masking is required in all health care settings, including hospitals and clinics.

CDC guidance updates will continue to be monitored, discussed, and incorporated into Trinity College guidelines.



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