



COVID-19 Masking Health Advisory

August 3, 2021

As of Tuesday, July 27, 2021 the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is recommending that everyone including fully vaccinated individuals wear a mask in public indoor setting in areas with high COVID transmission. This update is necessary to help with the prevention of the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19. When the CDC revised its guidance in May, the Delta variant represented 1% of all cases. Today, that number has grown to more than 80%. The CDC continues to recommend that local policies be based on local transmission rates.

Summit County has also seen an increase in the Delta COVID-19 variant. The Delta variant is the predominant COVID-19 strain circulating in Summit County, and is infecting both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. The Delta variant is highly contagious, and according to the CDC it appears to be more contagious than the flu, common cold and just as contagious as chicken pox. While vaccination remains our best defense against the COVID-19 virus, Summit County Public Health, wants residents to be aware that vaccinated and fully vaccinated individuals are able to spread the Delta virus.

Summit County Public Health, in collaboration with Akron Children's Hospital, Cleveland Clinic Akron General and Summa Health are advising Summit County residents to follow CDC guidance to wear masks when they are in indoor public places. Masking along with social distancing and regular disinfecting is highly effective in stopping the spread of COVID-19. While Summit County remains at moderate level we are experiencing increasing daily case counts, and it is important to stop the spread before Summit County reaches substantial or high infection rates. You can find the latest data for COVID-19 in Summit County at: www.scph.org/covid.

It remains a priority for children to physically be in school. In order for students to stay safe with this highly contagious variant, it is the recommendation of Summit County Public Health and Akron Children's Hospital that all staff, students and visitors in the school setting should be masked while indoors except if they are seated and eating/drinking or participating in athletic activity. Masking along with social distancing of at least three feet will help lower transmission risks for both vaccinated and unvaccinated staff and students. Schools should be aware that consistent and correct mask use, in addition to the maximizing of physical distancing, are needed to allow unvaccinated students to remain in the classroom setting following a potential classroom exposure. Masking on school buses is required based on the order issued by the CDC on January 29, 2021 requiring all conveyance operators to require masking. Schools are required to notify Public Health of all positive cases within 24 hours of becoming aware of a student, teacher, staff member, or coach who has tested positive or been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, should stay at home and isolate from other household members and be tested for COVID-19. Summit County Public Health offers free

COVID-19 testing for students, school staff and their families, please contact your school to schedule a testing appointment. Local area pharmacies and healthcare providers also offer COVID-19 testing opportunities call for more information.

Vaccination for COVID-19 still remains our best defense against this virus, any future variants and ending this pandemic. Getting vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalization and death; it also helps reduce the spread of COVID-19. Summit County residents, who would like to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in your home, please call our call center at 330-926-5795 or visit <http://tiny.cc/schomevax> to schedule an appointment. All three vaccines are available through our homebased vaccination program.