



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Danielle Pacik, Deputy City Solicitor

RE: Amend Code of Ordinances, Title I, General Code; Chapter 13, Public Health, Article 13-4, Vaccinations and Communicable Diseases

DATE: January 4, 2022

Recommendation

Accept this report and set the attached draft Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title I, General Code, Chapter 13, Public Health, Article 13-4, Vaccinations and Communicable Diseases for a public hearing before the City Council on January 10, 2022.

Discussion

On December 13, 2021, the City Council voted to form the COVID-19 Mask Subcommittee of the City Council. The Subcommittee held a meeting on December 30, 2021 to discuss a proposed preliminary mask ordinance. After discussion, the Subcommittee agreed to submit the drafted Ordinance to the City Council for a public hearing on January 10, 2022.

Information about how the CDC measures the county level of community transmission is attached.

A copy of Ordinance Number 3076, the City's previous face covering ordinance, is also provided.

COVID-19 County Check Tool: Understanding Community Transmission Levels in Your County

Updated Sept. 30, 2021

COVID-19 spreads easily between people. CDC tracks how much COVID-19 is spreading as well as how likely people are to be exposed to it with a measurement known as the “level of community transmission.”[†] You can use the [COVID-19 County Check Tool](#) for a snapshot of your county’s level of community transmission over the past 7 days. The tool also displays guidance on masking based on how the virus is spreading in your county.

How CDC measures the county level of community transmission

CDC looks at two numbers — total new cases and percent positivity — to determine the level of community transmission.

Total new cases refers to a county’s rate of new COVID-19 infections, reported over the past 7 days, per every 100,000 residents. To calculate this number, CDC divides the total number of new infections by the total population in that county. CDC multiplies this number by 100,000.

Percent positivity refers to the percentage of positive COVID-19 tests in a county over the past 7 days. This number is based on reports from states on a specific type of test known as a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT). To calculate this number, CDC divides the number of positive tests by the total number of NAATs performed in that county. CDC multiplies this number by 100 to calculate the percentage of all tests that were positive. Learn more at [Calculating SARS-CoV-2 Laboratory Test Percent Positivity](#).

A higher number of total new cases and a higher percent positivity correspond with a higher level of community transmission, as shown below. If the values for each of these two metrics differ (for example, if one indicates moderate and the other low), then the higher of the two should be used to make decisions about mask use in a county.

Incomplete Data

When data are unavailable for one metric, the other is used to determine the level of community transmission. When data for both metrics are unavailable, the county level of community transmission cannot be determined.

Community Transmission Levels	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

County level of community transmission and masking

People and local decision-makers should consider the county level of community transmission when making decisions about masking. Although COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States are highly effective at limiting the spread of COVID-19 and preventing severe illness, vaccination in some parts of the country remains low. Layered prevention strategies — like masking along with getting vaccinated — can help further reduce the spread of COVID-19. [CDC’s updated guidance](#), issued in July 2021, advises using county community transmission levels over the last 7 days to help determine who should mask and under what circumstances. See below for a quick reference on when to mask:

County Level of Community Transmission	Guidance
High or Substantial Transmission	Everyone should wear a mask in public, indoor settings.
Moderate or Low Transmission	Unvaccinated people should wear a mask in public, indoor settings.

Mask requirements vary from place to place. Make sure you follow local laws, rules, regulations, or guidance.

Additional Resources

Visit [COVID Data Tracker](#)* to learn more about the community transmission level in your [county](#). Please note that county-level data are not available for territories. For the most accurate and up-to-date data for any county or state, visit the relevant [health department website](#).

*COVID Data Tracker may display data that differ from state and local websites. This can be due to differences in how data were collected, how metrics were calculated, or the timing of web updates.

†COVID Data Tracker displays community transmission at two levels, the county and the state/jurisdiction level. For both, CDC uses aggregate data from the state/jurisdiction to determine the community transmission indicator. There are different reporting methods for county-level aggregate data and state/jurisdictional-level aggregate data. The [state-level community transmission indicator](#) provides an “at-a-glance” picture of a state’s overall community transmission level. The [county-level community transmission level](#) provides a picture at the local level and is used as the basis for [CDC’s updated guidance](#).