Pima County Health Department Guidance for Indoor Events

Updated March 15, 2022

Masking Recommendations

On March 1, 2022, the Pima County mask mandate expired resulting in no requirements for masking in indoor public spaces. Mask requirements in all Pima County buildings ceased after March 11, 2022. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask in accordance with CDC quarantine and isolation guidance found here: COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation | CDC

On February 25, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) changed mask guidelines following a sharp decline in positive COVID-19 cases. New guidance is based on three community levels of COVID-19:

- **Low**: Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk.
- **Medium**: Wear a mask if you are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe illness, or you live with or have social contact with someone at high risk for severe illness.
- **High**: Wear a well-fitting mask indoors in public spaces, regardless of vaccination status or individual risk; if you are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe illness, a mask or respirator that provides greater protection is recommended.

You can check the current community level in Pima County here: COVID-19 Community Level by County.

Best practices

The following prevention strategies are strongly recommended for indoor events venues to help curb the spread of COVID-19.

- Encourage attendees to stay home if sick or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.
- Encourage unvaccinated attendees who have been in close contact with a person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) to stay home.
- Install touchless hand sanitizing stations at entrances and in high-traffic areas to encourage frequent hand sanitizing.
- Unvaccinated people at higher risk for severe COVID-19 should consider additional protections including masks or staying home.
- Encourage masks for those who are immunocompromised or at high risk for acquiring COVID-19.
- Have masks available for those who desire to mask.
- Consider recommending or requiring vaccination for attendees.
- Consider providing generous and flexible cancellation policies so that if guests/attendees start experiencing symptoms, they can cancel.
- Encourage social distancing of 6 feet or more between unvaccinated people. Venues may calculate capacity using Social Distancing Space Calculator.
• Post signage with easy to interpret graphics in commonly used languages reminding everyone to attempt to maintain 6 feet of distance if unvaccinated.
• If possible, establish single-direction traffic flow in and out of venue and seating areas. Consider separate entrances and exits.
• Continue enhanced cleaning and disinfection of common touch points (doors, stairwell handles, light switch, elevator switch, etc.). [CDC cleaning guidance]
• Ensure ventilation at the venue is in line with, or exceeds OSHA guidance. Visit https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240021280 for the most current HVAC guidance

Vendors/Employees

• Stay home if ill.
• Encourage employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19.
• Recommended hand sanitation upon arrival, departure and throughout the day.
• Employees who have been in close contact with an exposed or symptomatic person (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes over 24 hours) should not report to work and should self-quarantine based on current CDC guidance, unless they have been fully vaccinated and are asymptomatic.
• Provide contactless payment methods.
• Booths or vendors at events should use ropes, cones or tape to define the entrance, exit and flow.

Performers/competitors

*Research and the CDC suggest that activities like singing may project respiratory droplets in greater quantity and over greater distance, increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission, particularly with prolonged exposure.

• Participants (e.g., players, performers, actors, competitors, entertainers, etc.) in events should self-report any symptoms, and participants who have been in close contact with an exposed or symptomatic person (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) should not participate and should self-quarantine, unless they have been fully vaccinated and are asymptomatic.
• Unvaccinated performers are strongly encouraged to wear masks.
• Performers should be a minimum of 6 feet from audience, but 12 feet is preferred.
• Adopt seating and spacing modifications to increase physical distance from performers.
• Maximize physical spacing between performers on-stage.
• Performers should use a separate entrance/exit than the audience where possible.
• Frequently disinfect high-touch areas and equipment such as: microphones, instruments, props, etc. between uses.