

## **NEW MASK GUIDELINES FOR FULLY VACCINATED PEOPLE**

**Kirkville, MO 5/14/21** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released new interim mask guidelines for people fully vaccinated against COVID-19. These individuals may resume pre-pandemic activities with a few exceptions. The guidelines, released May 13, 2021, state that those fully vaccinated against COVID-19 may:

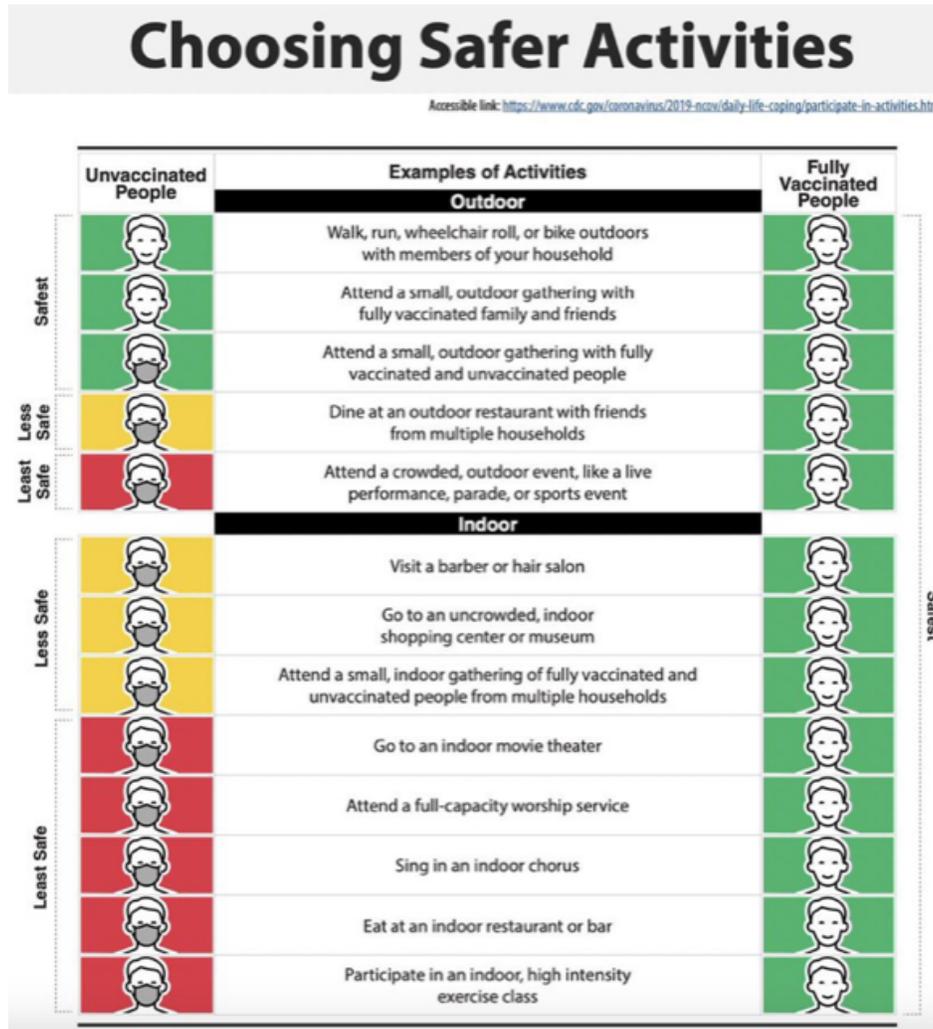
- Resume activities without wearing masks or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance;
- Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel;
- 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;
- Refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic; and,
- Refrain from routine screening testing if feasible.

The CDC released the new masking guidelines after accumulating data gathered since vaccine trials last year. The data indicated that fully vaccinated people face minimal risk at indoor and outdoor activities and have a reduced risk of transmitting the virus to unvaccinated people. Anyone, including fully vaccinated individuals, should be tested for COVID-19 if they experience any symptoms of the disease.

The CDC also charges that masks should still be worn by everyone in certain settings, including healthcare settings and while waiting for or while using public transportation and commercial airlines. Fully vaccinated people are to follow masking requirements established by employers, businesses, education settings, and governmental entities.

“The new CDC guidelines are great news,” said Jim LeBaron, Adair County Health Department administrator. “They show that we may be rounding the corner, but everyone still needs to be careful. Part of the equation used by the CDC is the percentage of vaccinated people.

We need significantly more people to become fully vaccinated in Adair County to get fully back to normal,” he said.



“The CDC graphic is a great illustration of the advantages of getting the COVID-19 vaccine,” LeBaron said. There are so many opportunities throughout our community now available to residents to get the vaccine. You can get to the green side of the graphic by taking advantage of those opportunities,” he said.

The Adair County Health Department continues to register people for curbside vaccines which will be administered Tuesday, May 18, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., and from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Health Department facility at 1001 S. Jamison, Kirksville. The clinic is open to all individuals ages 18 and older who live or work in the United States and who have not yet completed their COVID-19 vaccine series. Residents interested in receiving the vaccine should

register by calling the Health Department at 660-665-8491 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by calling 660-730-6100.

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