

California to lift indoor mask rule for vaccinated

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(HealthDay)—Vaccinated people in California will no longer have to

wear masks indoors as of Feb. 15, but schoolchildren will still have to wear masks, state health officials announced Monday.

However, [they said](#) that unvaccinated people will still have to wear masks indoors, and both vaccinated and unvaccinated people will be required to wear masks in high-risk settings such as [public transit](#), nursing homes and other congregate living facilities.

But effective immediately, the state no longer requires people to show a negative coronavirus test before visiting hospitals and nursing homes.

State health officials said local governments can continue their own indoor masking rules. Last week, Los Angeles County health officials said they plan to keep their indoor mask regulations in place after the state lifts theirs, *CBS News* reported. According to L.A. County public [health](#) director Barbara Ferrer, the county will keep indoor mask requirements in place until the county has two straight weeks at or below a "moderate" rate of 50 new cases per 100,000 people and there are no signs of any new, worrisome variant circulating. The current rate is 117 cases per 100,000 people, *CBS News* said.

State officials also said that large indoor events must require vaccinations or negative tests for attendees, and [unvaccinated people](#) will have to wear masks. There is no vaccination requirement for large outdoor events, but [masks](#) or negative tests are recommended.

This Sunday's Super Bowl is expected to draw as many as 100,000 football fans to SoFi Stadium outside Los Angeles.

There's been a 65% drop in COVID-19 case rates in California since the peak during the Omicron surge, *CBS News* noted.

"Omicron has loosened its hold on California, vaccines for children

under 5 are around the corner, and access to COVID-19 treatments is improving," according to state Public Health Officer Dr. Tomás J. Aragón. "With things moving in the right direction, we are making responsible modifications to COVID-19 prevention measures, while also continuing to develop a longer-term action plan for the state."

More information: There's more on how masks can protect you against COVID-19 at the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

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