

**GILPIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER No. 22-03 – GILPIN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC MASK REQUIREMENTS AND STATE MASK
REQUIREMENTS**

- 1. Gilpin County Public Health Order 22-03 (“Order”) Gives Most Gilpin County Departments Discretion on Masking.** With certain limited exceptions described in Section 2 below, this Order gives each Gilpin County elected official and department director discretion to determine whether to require their staff and/or the public to wear masks in their department. All County employees and elected officials have the individual right to wear a mask at any time anywhere if they so choose, regardless of the decision of their department’s elected official or director.

- 2. CDPHE Twelfth Amended PHO 20-38 - Certain State Mask Requirements Still Apply in Gilpin County.**
 - 2.1. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Twelfth Amended PHO 20-38 still requires masks be worn by unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated patients, residents, and visitors, and medical grade masks be worn by unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated staff in the following settings that serve vulnerable or at-risk populations:
 - 2.1.1. Homeless shelters;
 - 2.1.2. Prisons;
 - 2.1.3. Jails;
 - 2.1.4. Community corrections programs and facilities;
 - 2.1.5. Emergency medical and other healthcare settings (including hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, urgent care centers, clinics, doctors’ offices, and non-urgent care medical structures); and
 - 2.1.6. Public transit services, as described in Section 2.3 of this Order.

 - 2.2. Exceptions to the State mask requirements include the following:
 - 2.2.1. individuals 11 years of age or younger,
 - 2.2.2. individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering, and
 - 2.2.3. individuals participating in one of the following activities:
 - 2.2.3.1. individuals who are hearing impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication;
 - 2.2.3.2. individuals who enter a business or receive services and are asked to temporarily remove a face covering for identification purposes;
 - 2.2.3.3. individuals who are actively engaged in a public safety role, such as law enforcement officers, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel; or
 - 2.2.3.4. individuals who are officiating or participating in a life rite or religious service where the temporary removal of a face covering is necessary to complete or participate in the life rite or religious service.

- 2.3. Nothing in this Order changes or abrogates the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Order on January 29, 2021, requiring the wearing of masks by travelers to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All Coloradans must abide by the CDC's Order, which can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html>.
- 2.4. CDPHE Twelfth Amended PHO 20-38 expires on March 1, 2022 unless otherwise extended by the State.
- 3. Masks Still Highly Recommended for Vulnerable Individuals and At-Risk Populations In Any Setting.** N95 or KN95 masks if available are highly recommended for any vulnerable individuals and at-risk populations in any setting where they are in contact with other individuals. If N95 or KN95 masks are not available, surgical masks are next preferred and if unavailable cloth masks can be used. While this Order recommends certain types of masks over others if available, all of the described masks provide important and significant protection against COVID-19 infection. CDC information on who is a vulnerable individual and at-risk populations in any setting and the significant protections these masks provide can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>.
- 4. Vaccination and COVID-19 Testing Is Still Very Important.** The Board strongly encourages everyone that is not fully vaccinated to get fully vaccinated and receive any recommended additional booster as soon as possible. The Board also strongly encourages everyone to use COVID-19 testing opportunities when available. Additional information on testing, locations, and other public health information can be found on the Gilpin County Public Health Agency website at: https://gilpincounty.org/departments_offices/public_health_agency.
- 5. Findings and Necessity of this Order.** This Order is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, and welfare of Gilpin County. This Order ensures public health is protected while COVID-19 still exists while also providing the opportunity to reduce mandatory mask restrictions in recognition that infection and hospitalization rates have greatly decreased and vaccination rates have greatly increased. The discretion provided to Gilpin County elected officials and directors in whether to require masks in their respective departments reflects this much hoped for turn in the COVID-19 battle. This discretion recognizes, however, the continued and real concern County personnel and the public may or may not have related to the still present but much less prevalent COVID-19 virus. Concerns include infection to or from those that may be unvaccinated, concerns of break through infections of those that are vaccinated, and the possibility of new and dangerous COVID-19 variants. Any Gilpin County employee or official concerned with these risks from infection, however, are always free to wear a mask at any time and in any place, which masking greatly reduces their risks of infection as documented by the CDC. See below hyperlink: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106e1.htm>.
- 6. Duration.** This Order shall be effective as of February 11, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. and will remain in effect until otherwise extended, amended, superseded, rescinded, or suspended in writing by the Board.

7. If you have questions regarding this Order, please contact the Gilpin County Public Health Agency at GilpinPublicHealth@co.jefferson.co.us or view the COVID-19 information on Gilpin County Public Health Agency's website at: https://gilpincounty.org/departments_offices/public_health_agency.

GILPIN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
GILPIN COUNTY, COLORADO



Signature: Sandy Hollingsworth, Chair

Date: February 17, 2022

ATTEST:



Deputy Clerk Sharon Cate