

YWCA Minneapolis Mask Policy Change

Frequently Asked Questions

September 9, 2021

Why are you making this change?

In an effort to protect all who use our facilities, we are instituting a mandatory face mask requirement. Throughout the pandemic, the health and safety of our community members and employees have been our top priority. As an organization, YWCA Minneapolis serves diverse populations, some of which are too young to be vaccinated, have health conditions that increase their risk for severe disease from COVID-19, have immunocompromised systems or are members of communities who distrust public health interventions having experienced racism or mistreatment in health care.

Why are you enforcing a mask mandate if face masks are not currently required by the state of Minnesota or the City of Minneapolis?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) highly recommends both vaccinated and unvaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. Hennepin County is currently reporting high transmission rates. Your wellbeing is our top priority and we will continue to monitor the status of COVID-19 and follow guidance issued by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the CDC.

Why should I wear a face mask if I'm vaccinated?

The CDC highly recommends both vaccinated and unvaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. Wearing a face mask will help protect you and those around you from infection. COVID-19 spreads from person to person by respiratory droplets. Face masks act as barriers by preventing those around you from inhaling these particles.

How long will face coverings be required?

Our policy decisions are based heavily on recommendations from the CDC and MDH, as well as county guidance/transmission rates. YWCA Minneapolis will continually evaluate the climate surrounding COVID-19 and make policy updates as needed.

Since you're enforcing a mask mandate, why aren't you checking vaccination status?

YWCA Minneapolis serves diverse populations, some of which are too young to be vaccinated, have health conditions may not allow for vaccination or are members of communities who distrust public health interventions having experienced racism and mistreatment in health care. For these reasons, we are currently not requiring proof of vaccination but instead have chosen to help protect our community by instituting safety protocols, requiring face coverings and providing credible resources for information on the COVID-19 vaccine.