

# Universal Masking Across Mount Sinai Effective Today

August 2, 2021, Monday

As of today, in line with recent CDC recommendations for areas [currently identified](#) as having substantial COVID-19 transmission, which include New York City and Long Island, we are restoring universal masking across all Mount Sinai campuses. **Effective immediately, everyone must be masked at all times, regardless of vaccination status.**

We know this is disappointing news to those of you who are vaccinated and do hope we will be able to allow masking freedoms for vaccinated employees again soon. We have learned a lot about COVID-19 since March 2020. One of the most important and persistent lessons is that we need to be agile in the face of this shifting pandemic. Now is one of those times. Test positivity rates are on the rise, largely due to the Delta variant. In fact, almost 100 percent of current COVID-19 admissions at Mount Sinai are due to the Delta variant. We are moving in the wrong direction, and it is time to take action to ensure our community's health and safety.

Effective immediately, we ask that you remain masked at all times: in small and large group meetings, in private office suites, at cubicles, and in hallways and elevators. No exceptions. And, as with the prior rules, everyone must always be masked in patient care areas. The only place you may remove your mask is when you are alone in a private office with the door closed, or when eating in a designated area, six feet apart from others. In-person meetings can continue to occur, but everyone must be vaccinated and masked to attend (those who are unvaccinated may attend virtually).

While masking and other precautions help, the only way we will beat this virus is through vaccination. Please do the right thing for yourself, your patients, and your families—[get vaccinated](#) today.

Stay safe, and thank you again for putting your best out there every day. We know the days have been long, the nights endless, and the anxiety very real. However, we are in this together, and we, as a Mount Sinai family, will come out stronger. We are forever grateful.

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