

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL**

November 7, 2023

**Los Angeles County Department of Public Health’s COVID-19 Masking Policy During the 2023-2024 Respiratory Virus Season**

The Los Angeles County (County) Department of Public Health (DPH) carefully tracks metrics to detect new COVID-19 variants to recommend any needed policy changes regarding testing, vaccination, and masking. DPH currently does not recommend general masking given the relatively lower rates of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths and the availability of other effective tools to reduce the illness severity. Instead, DPH continues to strongly recommend that people at high-risk of serious illness from COVID-19 wear a well-fitting mask in settings where transmission is more likely, such as in healthcare facilities, and when indoors, especially in areas that are crowded and/or poorly ventilated, and on public transit. DPH strongly recommends that healthcare facilities and clinical practices independently require masking as a workplace and patient safety measure without a health officer order. In addition, during the respiratory virus season, November 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024, DPH’s Health Officer Order<sup>1</sup> requires all healthcare personnel working in licensed healthcare facilities

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<sup>1</sup> L.A. County Health Officer Order. Revised September 27, 2023.  
[http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/Docs/2023/Influenza\\_HOO\\_IzorMaskingforHCWs\\_2023.pdf](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/Docs/2023/Influenza_HOO_IzorMaskingforHCWs_2023.pdf)

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in the County to receive both an annual influenza and an updated COVID-19 vaccine (2023-2024 formula). Healthcare personnel who do not receive both these vaccines are required to wear a respiratory mask for the duration of the season when in contact with patients or when working in patient-care areas.

As the County enters the flu season, it is important that the general public understand these recommendations.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Direct the Director of the Department of Public Health, or designee, to present at the November 7, 2023, Board Meeting on the latest COVID-19 metrics and Health Officer Order outlining its masking policy for the general public and in licensed healthcare facilities.

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