

GOVERNMENT

New York, CDC recommend return to mask usage as delta cases increase

August 2, 2021



Government leaders are recommending a return to masks as the COVID-19 delta variant spreads. Image credit: U.S. Center for Disease Control

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

With the surging delta variant of the COVID-19 virus spreading throughout the United States, many legislators and medical experts are recommending a return to masks.

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In the last two weeks, COVID-19 cases have doubled in more than 40 states across the U.S., with about 97 percent of cases among the vaccinated. As at least 40 percent of the country remains unvaccinated, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and several government leaders, including New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, recommend a return to wearing masks indoors for the time being.

Masking up?

Many regions around the world are still attempting to adjust to COVID-19 conditions day-by-day.

Mayor de Blasio announced the city was only "strongly" encouraging mask-wearing in public indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status. Unvaccinated New Yorkers are mandated to wear masks both indoors and outdoors.

He also said that the city is not implementing a mandatory mask policy yet as the government is still focusing on encouraging residents to get vaccinated.

The governors of New York and New Jersey have also publicly expressed support for a return to indoor masking for vaccinated people in high COVID risk areas, but have not mandated it.

Starting on Aug. 2, anyone who works at a New York City hospital will have to show proof of vaccination or submit to weekly COVID-19 testing.

A reminder: unvaccinated New Yorkers need to wear a mask in ALL public settings, outdoors and indoors.

We are also strongly recommending that vaccinated New Yorkers wear masks in indoor public

settings. Let's take precautions to keep each other safe.

Mayor Bill de Blasio (@NYCMayor) [August 2, 2021](#)

New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has publicly expressed that as of right now, different regions have different approaches.

"The CDC puts out guidance next question is will the local governments accept that. I have strongly recommended that they do," the governor said in a statement. "We would need a state law to [implement a statewide mandate]; the state legislature would need to come back and pass a law."

On its website, the CDC currently has a list of regions across the world divided into four categories based on how quickly the coronavirus is spreading. The categories are COVID-19 very high; COVID-19 high; COVID-19 moderate; COVID-19 low.

There is also a [list](#) of countries and regions that have unknown levels of COVID-19 cases.

The CDC site also recommends "To maximize protection from the delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission."

People can get more region-specific information from the CDC [here](#).

There appears to be no immediate market reaction to Monday's mask discussion.

Changing suggestions around mask guidelines mark a shift, as many businesses had made progress towards fully reopening and welcoming back office workers. Now, retailers including technology giant Apple have reinstated mask requirements in stores.

With global concerns over the COVID-19 delta variant also growing, international travel restrictions and recommendations continue to change easing in some cases, tightening in others.

On July 19, the U.S. State Department and CDC both issued warnings against travel to the United Kingdom due to rising COVID-19 cases. Meanwhile, Canada is easing into reopening its borders by welcoming U.S. travelers as soon as next month ([see story](#)).