

AUTOMOTIVE

US automakers reinstate mask mandates

August 3, 2021



Lincoln's parent company Ford is among the U.S. automakers that reinstated mask requirements. Image credit: Ford Motor Company

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

U.S. automakers General Motors, Ford Motor Company and Stellantis, in a joint statement with the [United Auto Workers](#) union, have determined that personnel will be required to wear masks at all plants, offices and warehouses, regardless of vaccination status, as concerns mount over the spread of the COVID-19 delta variant.

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Effective Aug. 4, the new mandate comes less than a month after the Detroit automakers and UAW dropped their mask requirements for fully vaccinated workers. The decision comes in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) change in COVID-19 guidance related to the rapidly spreading delta variant.

Masking up

Last week, the CDC [recommended](#) that fully vaccinated people should wear masks indoors in public spaces in places with substantial or high COVID-19 community transmission rates.

After reviewing the recently changed CDC guidelines and community COVID-19 trends, the automakers decided it is best for worker safety to resume wearing masks in all worksites.

In the joint statement, the auto companies acknowledged that masks may be uncomfortable, however the spread of the delta variant and recent data outlining the alarmingly high rate of transmission among those unvaccinated is a serious health threat.

They suggested the best way to fight the virus is by getting vaccinated, strongly encouraging its members, coworkers and families to follow the CDC's guidelines.

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 ([see story](#)).

On Aug. 3, New York also became the first major city in the United States to mandate vaccination proof for indoor dining and gyms.

If you want to participate in society fully, you've got to get vaccinated. It's time.

You'll need proof of #COVID19 vaccination for indoor dining, indoor gyms, and indoor concerts and performances in New York City. This is a lifesaving mandate to keep our city safe.

<https://t.co/hIK99Z8M8A>

Mayor Bill de Blasio (@NYCMayor) August 3, 2021

Similarly, French President Emmanuel Macron has ordered all health workers to get vaccinated by Sept. 15, and will now require COVID-19 vaccine passports for restaurants, shopping malls and hospitals ([see story](#)).

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