



UPDATE ON MASK REQUIREMENTS @ SEA

On June 10, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) posted [updated guidance](#) and [frequently asked questions](#) regarding mask requirements for public transportation conveyances and at transportation hubs. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) aligned its mask requirements with the new CDC guidance.

In summary, “Unless otherwise required by the operator, federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local government, people are not required to wear a mask when located in outdoor areas of a transportation hub. However, CDC continues to recommend people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in these areas to protect themselves and others.”

Furthermore, COVID-19 activity within the state of Washington and in King County has greatly diminished and immunization rates have increased. King County has reached the 70 percent threshold for vaccination rates for its residents, with state vaccination rates following close behind. With this welcome progress, King County will lift its indoor public mask mandate on June 29, 2021 and the state is scheduled to reopen on June 30.

This means the Port is taking steps to ease COVID-19 mask and physical distancing requirements in our facilities. The Port will no longer require masks for travelers or non-Port employees in outdoor or open-air areas of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) such as the airfield, parking garage or curbside on the drives.

Moreover, the Port will ease mask and physical distancing requirements in outdoor spaces for Port employees who attest (submit signed statements) that they are fully vaccinated beginning June 30. The Port will not require vaccination records but will rely on employees to attest truthfully that they are fully vaccinated.

The Port is carefully following state [Labor and Industries](#) direction about how employers may implement these changes. See L&I guidance to ensure your own policies are in alignment.

Additionally, in accordance with federal guidance from the TSA and CDC, the Port will continue to require masks in public indoor spaces at SEA, and public modes of transportation like SEA rental car facility and buses public modes of transportation like SEA rental car facility and buses, employee buses, and SEA trains.

Be encouraged! The pandemic has caused so much disruption to our work and personal lives. We have worked hard as individuals and as an airport community to defeat the virus. June 30 is an important milestone to look forward to for relief and the hope that things will move forward.

Remember, we are heading into change and encourage everyone to allow for grace and space as we make these adjustments to protocols. Thanks for all that you are doing.

Q&A Mask Requirements at SEA

Q. Where does SEA require masks?

A. Masks are required in public indoor spaces at SEA, and public modes of transportation like SEA rental car facility and buses, employee buses, and SEA trains. This also includes areas in air cargo areas with customer and ground handling facilities. This is in accordance with federal guidance from the TSA and CDC.

Q. Where does SEA not require masks?

A. Masks are not required in outdoor or open-air areas such as the airfield, parking garage or curbside on the drives. This is for travelers, non-Port employees and Port employees who voluntarily submit an attestation of being fully vaccinated.

Q. What does it mean to be fully vaccinated?

A. “Fully vaccinated” means that it has been at least two weeks since you received your second dose of a two dose vaccine to protect against COVID-19 (Pfizer or Moderna), or it has been at least two weeks since you received your single dose vaccine of Johnson & Johnson.

Q. Must customers and visitors wear a face covering when entering the airport?

A. Yes, when in indoor public spaces such as the terminal, SEA trains, SEA rental car facility and buses and SEA employee buses. These areas and modes of public transportation are under federal mandates with TSA and CDC. Until these mandates are lifted, employees, stakeholders, and the public need to don a mask in these indoor public locations and in modes of public transportation.

Q. Is the Port requiring its employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

A. No, but the Port is encouraging employees to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Currently, all individuals age 12 and over are eligible to get vaccinated. Vaccines to protect against COVID-19 have proven to be very effective.

Q. Am I required to tell the Port if I have been vaccinated?

A. No, you are not required to report your vaccination status to the Port. The Port is carefully following state [Labor and Industries](#) direction about how employers may implement these changes. See L&I guidance to ensure your own policies are in alignment.

Q. I work in a construction zone like the IAF at SEA. Do I need to wear a mask?

A. Yes. Get vaccinated if you haven't done so already. Wear a face covering and practice social distancing, if unvaccinated.

A. It depends. You must follow all site safety plans of construction companies managing these sites. Monitor your health closely for COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, loss of smell or taste, and shortness of breath. Be prepared to don all appropriate PPE at construction sites, including a mask.

Employees with symptoms should notify their employer and stay home. If symptoms occur while at work, go home.

Q. How can I protect myself while at work?

Understand that the one with symptoms should be present at the workplace.

A. Employees should take the following steps to protect themselves and others at work:



- <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>
- https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-rules/enforcement-policies/DD170.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

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CONTACT US

For follow up questions please contact SMS Team at SMSspecialist@portseattle.org