



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

HEALTHCARE FACILITY NOTICE/ORDER **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

TO: All Health Care Facilities Licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health (including Hospitals)

FROM: LDH Office of Public Health
Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH
State Health Officer

RE: **Release and Termination of Emergency Order(s)**
Face Covering/Masking Requirements

DATE: November 18, 2021

All outstanding Emergency Orders concerning face covering/masking requirements issued by the State Health Officer to or concerning the above-listed facility types, including but not limited to the Order signed on and dated April 27, 2021, are hereby released and terminated, effective as of 8:00 a.m. on November 19, 2021.

The above-listed facility types should continue to adhere to the face covering/masking requirements and guidance of applicable federal authorities, as amended, including but not necessarily limited to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Facilities should monitor the relevant pages of the websites of those three agencies (<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>; <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus>) for applicable requirements/guidance and updates thereto. Particular attention should be given to CDC's *Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic* (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>), which currently recommends masking in most health care settings.

Facilities required to be certified by the Joint Commission should adhere to the face covering/masking requirements and guidance issued thereby and should monitor

relevant pages of their website (<https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19/>) for updates thereto.

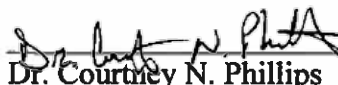
The State Health Officer and the LDH Office of Public Health strongly recommend that universal masking be maintained in health care settings except in those circumstances or situations where CDC guidance expressly states that masking is not necessary.

Signed in New Orleans, Louisiana on November 18, 2021.



Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH
State Health Officer

Concurrence:

 November 18, 2021
Dr. Courtney N. Phillips DATE
LDH Secretary