

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Teton County, WY Mask Order Set to be Rescinded on May 7, 2021

April 29, 2021, Jackson, WY – Teton District Health Officer Public Health Order #21-3, requiring individuals in Teton County, WY to wear face coverings in certain places, is expected to be rescinded on May 7, 2021 instead of expiring on May 17, 2021 as initially planned. This is dependent on local COVID-19 case numbers remaining at their current levels or continuing to decrease. The 26th continuation of Statewide Health Order 1 will also remain in place through May 16, 2021 and requires mask usage while on K-12 school or college property. To read all current health orders in place please visit <http://www.tetoncountyyw.gov/2064/Current-Health-Orders-and-Guidance>.

As of April 27, 2021, Teton County has averaged 3 new cases per day for that last seven days. There have been 41 new cases in the past two weeks. This is a 49% decrease from the previous two-week period. Additionally, as of April 26, 2021, 52.82% of our population is fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Teton County District Health Officer, Travis Riddell, MD, MPH, further explains the justification for rescinding the mask order, saying, “We have seen a sustained decline in COVID-19 disease in Teton County in terms of both new cases and hospitalizations. Teton County, WY has also seen a tremendous uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines in our community. Community members’ choice to get vaccinated has made the mask mandate less necessary. On May 7, 2021, the date the mask order is expected to be rescinded, any person 16 years of age and older will have had an opportunity to reach full immunity, which is defined as two weeks after the second dose in a 2-dose vaccine (such as the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine) or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine).”

It is important to remember that many people in our community are still susceptible to COVID-19. This includes children younger than 16 years old, people who are immunocompromised, and those who are not yet fully vaccinated. Teton County Health Department urges community members to follow the CDC’s latest guidance on mask usage. It is recommended that even fully vaccinated individuals continue to wear masks when inside public places or in crowded outdoor settings, such as performances, parades, or sports events. Local businesses, organizations, and event planners may develop their own policies for their staff and customers, as long as accommodations can be made for those requiring exemptions. To read the CDC’s guidance on mask use please visit, <http://www.tetoncountyyw.gov/2061/COVID-19>.

The COVID-19 vaccine will continue to be available in Teton County for anyone 16 and older. To book an appointment or to see when the clinic is open and accepting walk-ins please visit, <http://www.tetoncountyyw.gov/covidvax>.

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