

From: [Soil & Water Conservation Program](#)
To: [Soil & Water Conservation Program](#); [DNR.Soil and Water Conservation Districts staff](#)
Cc: [DNR.SWC Staff](#)
Subject: FW: IMPORTANT! NEW: COVID-19 Mask Guidance and CDC Update
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 1:41:46 PM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

Good afternoon,

Please see the email below from Scott Edwards regarding the requirement to wear a mask in Federal buildings and vehicles in areas with substantial or high community transmission rates. Because we are partners within the Federal buildings this applies to all Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Missouri except for the three counties that are currently not at a substantial or high transmission rate.

Thank you.

Soil & Water Conservation Program

We'd like your feedback on the service you received from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Please consider taking a few minutes to complete the department's Customer Satisfaction Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MoDNRsurvey>. Thank you.

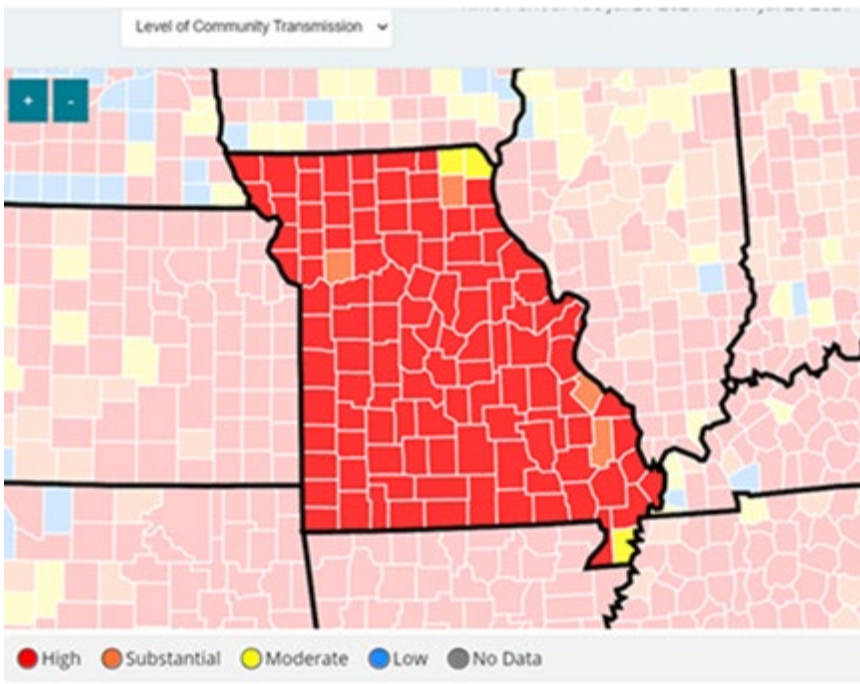
From: Edwards, Scott - NRCS, Columbia, MO <scott.edwards@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 12:14 PM
To: ug-MO-nrcs <mo-nrcs@usda.gov>
Cc: Boeckmann, Kurt <kurt.boeckmann@dnr.mo.gov>; Boschert, Jim <jim.boschert@dnr.mo.gov>; Plassmeyer, Jim <jim.plassmeyer@dnr.mo.gov>; Redden, Jeremy <jeremy.redden@dnr.mo.gov>; Mosley, Jeremy - FSA, Milan, MO <jeremy.mosley@usda.gov>; White, Bill <bill.white@mdc.mo.gov>; Casey Bergthold <cbergthold@pheasantsforever.org>; Potter, Lisa <lisa.potter@mdc.mo.gov>
Subject: IMPORTANT! NEW: COVID-19 Mask Guidance and CDC Update

Good afternoon Missouri Conservationist,

The email below from the Secretary's office was sent out yesterday to all employees. I have included the data for Missouri. As you can see all but three counties are high or substantial.

Effective immediately: All FPAC employees, on-site contractors, partners, volunteers, customers, and visitors in areas of "substantial" or "high" community COVID-19 transmission are required to wear a mask in Federal buildings and government owned or leased vehicles regardless of vaccination status

As these Low/Moderate/Substantial/High levels of transmission are a lagging indicator of existing infections I would encourage all to take measures to stay safe regardless of the County rating. Your health and safety is very important, please do what you can to keep yourself and those around you protected!



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From: The Office of the Secretary - OSEC <Officeof.theSecretary@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:30 AM

Subject: NEW: COVID-19 Mask Guidance and CDC Update

This email is intended for all USDA employees.

******* Please do not respond to this mailbox. Thank you. *******

Please post this for your employees that may not have regular email access.

USDA Team,

As you may have seen, yesterday the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#). Consistent with that guidance, this email provides immediate updates to Federal workplace COVID-19 safety guidance. Additional updates, including updated Model Safety Principles from the [Safer Federal Workforce Task Force](#), are forthcoming.

These changes are responsive to what is now known about the Delta variant, which accounts for over 80% of all new cases in the country. The Delta variant is as much as 60 percent more contagious than the Alpha variant, which was already 50 percent more transmissible than the original strain of the coronavirus.

This updated CDC guidance means our employees, on-site contractors, partners, volunteers, customers, and visitors in areas of “substantial” or “high” community COVID-19 transmission are required to wear a mask in Federal buildings and government owned or leased vehicles regardless of vaccination status. Managers and employees should utilize the [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#) website to determine whether they are located in one of these areas. In the days ahead, USDA will update signs and post information online and on agency websites indicating what masking requirements apply in each Federal facility.

Practically speaking, the CDC guidance and the highly contagious Delta variant makes clear that masking indoors is the best practice and the safest thing to do.

As a reminder, all individuals who are *not* fully vaccinated (at least 2 weeks past the final dose) are required to wear a mask and practice physical distancing in Federal buildings, government owned or leased vehicles, and on Federal property.

Failure to comply with these requirements may lead to appropriate administrative action.

I want to assure you that this change is based on the best available science and the goal of protecting the health and safety of our workforce. I also want to emphasize that all three of the vaccines available in the US remain effective against serious infection or death from COVID-19, including the Delta variant. **So, if you have not yet received your vaccination, I strongly encourage you to do so to protect yourself, your loved ones, your community, and help us to put this pandemic in our rear-view mirror.**

Until further notice, we will continue to work towards our goal of phasing employees, who have been working remotely since the start of the pandemic, back to the physical workplace beginning on October 1.

Thank you for your patience in getting us to this point. If you have concerns or questions, please reach out to your pandemic coordinator.

Secretary Vilsack



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