

## Institute Guidelines on Use of Masks

As of April 22, 2022, Caltech requires the universal use of masks, regardless of vaccination status, in indoor settings on campus.

High-quality masks (surgical, N95s, KN95s, or KF95s) must be worn in all indoor locations on campus, including athletic facilities. Exceptions to this rule can be made when an individual is alone in a space or is actively eating or drinking. Additionally, instructors, speakers, and performers may elect to remove their masks indoors when all other individuals in the space are masked.

This decision follows a recent increase in COVID-19 cases on campus due to the arrival of the highly infectious BA.2 subvariant in Los Angeles County and a return to routine social activities, and was made in consultation with local public health authorities.

A [CDC study](#) shows that wearing a well-fitted high-quality mask (surgical or respirator) indoors can lower the wearer's likelihood of testing positive for COVID-19 by as much as 83 percent (with the use of a respirator) or 66 percent (with the use of a surgical mask).

Please remember that high-quality masks are available for free to all members of the campus community through the Caltech Store. Members of the campus community should be prepared to present their Caltech ID when requesting masks.