



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 17, 2021

TO: EMS Life Support Agencies
Medical Control Authorities

FROM: Kathy Wahl, Director, Division of EMS & Trauma

SUBJECT: Face Masks in the Cab of Ambulances

Questions have been posed related to wearing face masks in the cab of ambulances since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued [new guidance](#) for people that are considered fully vaccinated on March 9, 2021. The new guidelines include the **ability of fully vaccinated individuals to gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask**. The CDC advises, “You should still take steps to [protect yourself and others](#) in many situations, by wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Take these precautions whenever you are:

- In public
- Gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household
- Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at [increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19](#) or who lives with a person at increased risk

Ambulances remain a high risk setting. Therefore, at this time out of an abundance of caution due to the increasing numbers of cases and variants of concern, [The Infection Prevention During COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Protocol](#) remains in effect. The protocol requires all EMS providers wear a minimum of a sewn facemask within 6 feet of any person, including the cab of a vehicle. In addition, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) most recent [Epidemic Order](#) requires all persons participating in gatherings to wear a face mask.

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) governs workplace requirements for all employers, therefore please refer to the [MIOSHA emergency rules](#) for guidelines regarding indoor gatherings at the workplace.

EMS Agencies may, at their discretion, incorporate a policy as a part of their COVID-19 plan to allow employees to remove their masks, inside company buildings, as long as all those present are fully vaccinated and the policy meets the most current CDC guidelines and MIOSHA emergency rules.