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Lancaster County, NE mask mandate effective August 26 and Douglas County has asked for approval to issue directed health measure

The **Lincoln-Lancaster County** Health Department announced earlier Tuesday plans to reinstitute the local mask mandate due to rising COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Beginning at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 26, people 2 years of age and older - regardless of vaccination status - *will be required to wear masks in indoor spaces when six feet of separation can't be maintained*. The mandate will be in effect until September 30, at which time officials will reevaluate whether it is needed.

Lincoln Public Schools will institute a full mask mandate starting Wednesday, August 25. Previously, only students and staff in grades K-6 were required to wear masks. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln also is instituting a mask mandate starting Wednesday.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department is able to institute a countywide mask mandate because of a quirk in state law. The department was formed in 1889, prior to the statewide creation of health districts, meaning it does not fall under the state's jurisdiction when it comes to public health emergencies.

See [story](#)

Douglas County Public Health Director Lindsay Huse asked the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for approval to issue a directed health measure requiring people to wear face masks indoors in the county. If approved, the temporary mask mandate would apply to school districts across Douglas County as well as other indoor settings.

The State has rejected Douglas County's request.

See [story](#)

The [CDC's Covid Data Tracker](#) provides an integrated county view by state.

We will continue to update our COVID [resource page](#), as information becomes available. A link to AGC of America's microsite is available as well.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep employees, job sites and projects safe and working.