

From: [FSIS User Information - FSIS](#)
To: [FSIS - All FSIS Employees](#)
Subject: Updates to FSIS Mask Requirements
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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced this week [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) in response to a national increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations due to the highly transmissible Delta variant. The CDC guidance recommends that fully vaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of “substantial” or “high” transmission.

Due to the highly dispersed nature of the FSIS workforce, FSIS is making a uniform change to mask requirements for all FSIS field and headquarters employees. **Effective immediately, all FSIS employees are now required to wear a mask in Federal buildings, regulated establishments, retail facilities, and government owned or leased vehicles regardless of vaccination status.** Face masks may only be removed while eating or if you are alone in an FSIS office or vehicle. As Secretary Vilsack emphasized in his email message today, the CDC guidance and the highly contagious Delta variant makes clear that masking indoors is the best practice and the safest thing to do.

There will be no change to requirements for wearing face shields. If you are fully vaccinated and protective equipment is not required by the establishment or facility where you work, FSIS employees are not required to wear a face shield. FSIS employees who are not fully vaccinated must continue to wear a face shield and mask and practice social distancing.

We also want to emphasize that all three of the COVID-19 vaccines available in the US remain effective against serious infection or death from COVID-19. **Getting vaccinated is the most important thing you can do to protect yourself and the people around you from the Delta variant of COVID-19.**

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FSIS Administrator

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