

## BROAD PUBLIC USE OF MASKS – Supplement H -

February 5, 2021

To: Information for Leaders and colleagues in state/local health policy  
From: Online summaries by Colorado Ideas 2.0, LLC<sup>i</sup>

As part of our active tracking of “Policies on Required Use of Masks...” listed below are the latest news and medical reports from CDC, the first such agency reports from the Biden administration. Three linked documents, each from Feb. 5, 2021, provide timely information, that can be used in education and regulatory messages:

### Summary Article by N.Y Times:

#### “A new C.D.C. study adds to the evidence that masks can keep you out of the hospital.”

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/02/05/world/covid-19-coronavirus#a-new-cdc-study-adds-to-the-evidence-that-masks-can-keep-you-out-of-the-hospital>

“... New research published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday shows that statewide mask-wearing mandates were associated with a decline in the growth rate of Covid-19 hospitalizations. The study provides additional evidence that wearing of masks can help minimize transmission of the coronavirus.....”

### From CDC-MMWR , Feb 5, 2021.

#### “Decline in COVID-19 Hospitalization Growth Rates Associated with Statewide Mask Mandates — 10 States, March–October 2020” –

“At the individual level, the prevention benefit of using a mask increases as more persons use masks consistently and correctly. Studies have confirmed the benefit of masking for SARS-CoV-2 control; each study demonstrated that, after implementation of directives from organizational or political leadership for universal masking, new infections decreased significantly... This study supports community masking to reduce the transmission of SARS-CoV-2.”\*

> Link to full text: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7006e2.htm>

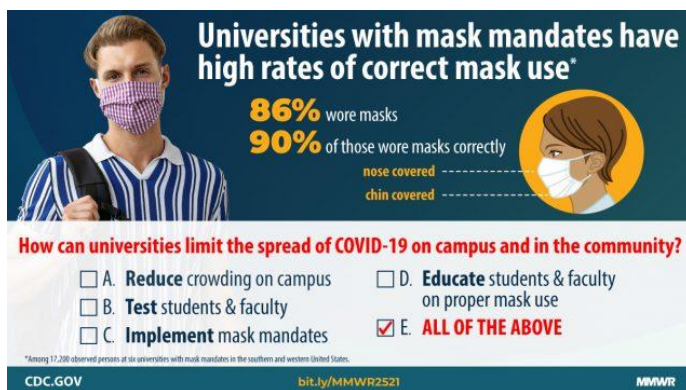
### From CDC-MMWR: “Observed Face Mask Use at Six Universities — United States, September–November 2020”

“During September–November 2020, mask use was directly observed at six universities with mask mandates. Among persons observed indoors, 91.7% wore masks correctly, varying by mask type, from 96.8% for N95-type masks and 92.2% for cloth masks to 78.9% for bandanas, scarves, and similar face coverings. \*\*

Direct observation provides rapid feedback on mask use prevalence. Institutions of higher education can use this feedback to tailor training and messaging for correct mask use.”

Link to full text: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/pdfs/mm7006e1-H.pdf>

\*\* This study featured data from CSU in Colorado – the only western state college examined.



## [A new C.D.C. study adds to the evidence that masks can keep you out of the hospital.](#)

New research published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday shows that statewide mask-wearing mandates were associated with a decline in the growth rate of Covid-19 hospitalizations. The study provides additional evidence that wearing of masks can help minimize transmission of the coronavirus.



*Joggers wearing masks in downtown Los Angeles on Thursday. Credit...Mario Anzuoni/Reuters*

The [research](#), published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report by the agency, found that in three weeks or more following a mask mandate, Covid-19 hospitalization growth rates fell by 5.5 percent in people aged 18 to 64.

The research focused on 10 states — California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Ohio and Oregon — that implemented mask mandates in the period from April to June of 2020. Hospitalization growth rates fell for adults 40 to 64 two weeks or more after the mandates were put into place, the research showed. [There are currently 34 states with mask mandates.](#)

Mask orders are “helping to protect people and helping the cases coming down,” said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director for the C.D.C., in a briefing on Friday by the White House Covid-19 Response team. She added that the data remains somewhat open to interpretation in light of a multitude of changing factors taking place during the period these mandates were implemented.

The C.D.C.’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report also published [another study](#) on Friday showing that college students appear to be doing an impressive job responding to the public health rallying cry to wear masks. From September to November, observers at six universities, five universities in the South and one in the West, found that 85.5 percent of 17,200 people on campus wore masks, with nearly 90 percent wearing them correctly (“If the mask completely covered the nose and mouth and was secured under the chin.”). Proper mask-wearing rates were higher indoors, 91.7 percent, the research found. The participating schools included five public universities with student populations ranging from 29,000 to 52,000, and one private university with 2,300 students. The rates of mask-wearing compliance were not specific by university; the research also noted that proper use of the masks varied by the type of covering: 96.8 percent for N95-type masks, 92.2 percent for cloth and 78.9 percent for “bandanas, scarves, and similar face coverings.”

**CDC-MMWR link:** <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7006e2.htm>

**Article by N.Y Times:** <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/02/05/world/covid-19-coronavirus#a-new-cdc-study-adds-to-the-evidence-that-masks-can-keep-you-out-of-the-hospital>

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<sup>i</sup> [Broad Public Use of Masks-Evidence-based research-COVID- series; updated February 2021 \(PDF\)](#). An online publication summarizing academic and medical research, intended for policy use as distinct from scientific exchange. Begun by Richard Cauchi, lead researcher at Colorado Ideas, 2.0, LLC, the updated web edition includes the [base report](#) (July) and eight PDF-format appendices (A to H).