

August release of “Required use of Masks” for COVID-19: a nationwide analysis

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A Colorado-based project has tracked the evolution of state and local executive orders to require and mandate the use of masks and face coverings. The latest, expanded edition, is “**Policies on Required Use of Masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19: An Updated Nationwide Review.**” (latest August 6, 2020). Since April, it is updated multiple times a week. It includes more than two dozen changes and additions from the past 5 weeks. It is accessible online at ([PDF](#)) or https://lnkd.in/g_3BKUa

Intended as a reference tool for state and local policymakers, the report has links to state and local legally-binding Executive Orders. It is authored by Colorado Ideas 2.0, LLC as a pro-bono public service. Lead researcher Richard Cauchi described the report as combining information from states, counties, cities and towns and public health agency districts. “These diverse jurisdictions are each responsible for categories of residents, visitors or workers, by boundaries drawn one or two centuries ago, and they are not required to coordinate their policies.” Our report allows City Council members in Texas to see what counties in Colorado have done, and what changes when a person crosses the boundary between Indiana and Illinois.” It draws on government-based tracking compiled by governors, state legislatures, counties and public health associations (reflecting the 3,143 counties in the United States). It also has examples of local news articles and links to a [separate report](#) by Colorado Ideas 2.0 on mask science studies released in 2020.

The authors note that this edition is not intended as legal or medical advice, or as advocacy. I also includes the list of all 50 states where use of masks is “recommended.” A separate education and advocacy supplement is available [online](#).

Notes: This release is online at [CI news Report release-Required use of masks.pdf](#). Author Richard Cauchi was a Health Program Director at NCSL (National Conference of State Legislatures, based in Denver, 1997-2019).