



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY

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Contact: Alex Altman

Press Office: Governor's Office

Email: Alexandra.Altman@nj.gov

**Governor Murphy and Commissioner Persichilli Strongly Recommend Masking
in Indoor Settings with Increased Risk**

Following yesterday's announcement by the Centers for Disease Control regarding masking, Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Department of Health Commissioner Judy Persichilli today strongly recommended that both vaccinated and unvaccinated residents wear masks in indoor settings when there is increased risk.

Examples of such situations include:

- Crowded indoor settings
- Indoor settings involving activities with close contact with others who may not be fully vaccinated
- Indoor settings where the vaccine status of other individuals in the setting is unknown
- Where an individual is immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease

Governor Murphy and Commissioner Persichilli made the following statement:

"Our metrics are trending in the wrong direction, and new data suggests the Delta variant is more transmissible even among vaccinated individuals, which is why we are making this strong recommendation.

"Fortunately, our numbers are a fraction of those in many other states, most of which have significantly lower vaccination rates. Should our numbers reach those levels, we reserve the right to take more drastic action, including a statewide mask mandate.

"We have crushed this virus repeatedly like no other state in the nation, and we are proud to boast among the country's highest vaccination rates. But at this point, given where our metrics are now, we feel the best course of action is to strongly encourage every New Jerseyan, and every visitor to our state, to take personal responsibility and mask up indoors when prudent.

"And we equally encourage every unvaccinated resident or visitor to get vaccinated. The vaccines are proven safe and highly effective, and are the surest way we can end this pandemic."