

**BROWN
COUNTY
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

**DE PERE
HEALTH
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**ONEIDA NATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BROWN COUNTY, WI— Brown County Public Health, De Pere Health Department, and Oneida Nation Health Department are encouraged by the recent update from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) regarding COVID-19 and fully vaccinated individuals.

A person is considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 if it has been two or more weeks since they got the second dose in a two-dose series (such as Pfizer or Moderna), or one dose of a single-dose vaccine (such as Johnson & Johnson).

The updated guidance and recommendations from CDC and DHS is a promising sign that we are nearing the end of the pandemic. This updated guidance reflects on the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines against spreading strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The science shows that COVID-19 vaccines are effective in real-world settings in preventing mild and severe disease, hospitalization, and death. Therefore, individuals who are fully vaccinated can start returning to normal activities.

This guidance applies to fully vaccinated individuals. Mask wearing, regardless of vaccination status, continues to be an important tool to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Brown County.

Important CDC/DHS Recommended Exceptions:

- [Health care settings.](#)
- [K-12 Schools.](#)
- Places where masks are required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, or regulations, including businesses and workplaces.
- Residents and employees of correctional and detention facilities and homeless shelters.
- Travelers on all planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

Organizations are encouraged to adopt policies that align with the updated CDC guidance. Public Health supports the decision of businesses or organizations that continue to require masking for the safety of their staff and patrons.

“At this time, we are asking for kindness and compassion in our communities,” said Public Health Officers Anna Destree, Debbie Armbruster and Michele Myers in a joint statement.

“This is a significant change for many people, and it may take some time to be comfortable with the updated guidance. We ask that everyone respect the decisions of others regarding how they choose to return to normal activities, even if they are vaccinated. Please don’t confront others regarding their decision to mask or not mask, or attend or not attend events, as you may not know the full story behind their decision. This is an important milestone toward getting back to pre-COVID life and should not be used to be divisive.”

Public Health is grateful for those who have already chosen to get vaccinated, and we are hopeful this guidance will encourage others to get vaccinated to protect our friends and families from COVID-19.

For more information please visit: www.stayhealthybc.com

The updated guidance can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

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