



Health and Human Services - Division of Public Health

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Columbia County
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

COLUMBIA COUNTY COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

Key COVID-19 Data Summary for Columbia County as of July 29, 2020 1:30 p.m.

- Total positive test results: 204 (+38 from 7/22/20)
(Includes active, recovered, deceased)
- Active cases: 54 (+0 from 7/22/20)
- Active cases currently hospitalized: 1 (-2 from 7/22/20)
- Individuals recovered: 149 (+38 from 7/22/20)
- Total deaths: 1 (+0 from 7/22/20)
- Total negative cases: 8748 (+800 from 7/22/20)
- Total number of active investigations by setting: 11 (-1 from 7/22/20)
(Long-term care facility 2; Workplace 4 (non-health care); Group housing facility 1; Health care facility 0; Other setting 4)
- COVID-19 Activity Level: HIGH (Same as 7/22/20)

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get tested for COVID-19?

In Columbia County, testing for COVID-19 is provided at Aspirus Divine Savior Healthcare in Portage and Prairie Ridge Healthcare in Columbus. A free community testing site is located at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison.

Did the release from isolation guidelines for COVID-19 diagnosed persons recently change?

DHS has updated the COVID-19 Diagnosed page release from isolation guidelines to reflect the updated CDC interim guidance for discontinuation of isolation for persons with COVID-19 not in healthcare settings. This includes:

- Symptom-based criteria were modified as follows:
 - Changed from "at least 72 hours" to "at least 24 hours" have passed since *last fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications.
 - Changed from "improvement in respiratory symptoms" to "improvement in symptoms" to address the expanding list of symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- Added note that some people who develop serious illness from COVID-19 may require a longer period of isolation before it is safe to be around others or go back to work.
- Added information that testing to see when isolation should be completed is not recommended and may extend the isolation period unnecessarily.

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Resources have also been updated to reflect this change, including:

[Isolation Release Flyer](#)

[Isolation Release Flyer \(Asymptomatic\)](#)

[Next Steps: after you are diagnosed with COVID-19](#) (available in English, Hindi, Somali, and Spanish)

What is the evidence supporting the use of cloth face coverings?

CDC's recommendation to use cloth face coverings was based on evidence suggesting that persons with COVID-19 can transmit the SARS-Cov-2 virus to others before they develop symptoms or have an asymptomatic infection (1,2). The efficacy of cloth masks depends on the material(s) and the number of layers (3,4,5). Below are the main takeaways from studies 3,4, and 5 cited in the previous sentence:

- 3) N95 masks, medical masks, and homemade masks made of four-layer kitchen paper and one-layer cloth could block 99.98%, 97.14%, and 95.15% of the virus in aerosols. With these data, we propose the approach of mask-wearing plus instant hand hygiene (MIH) to slow the exponential spread of the virus.
- 4) Overall, we find that combinations of various commonly available fabrics used in cloth masks can potentially provide significant protection against the transmission of aerosol particles.
- 5) Our measurements indicate that 2 or 3 layers of highly permeable fabric, such as T-shirt cloth, may block droplets with an efficacy similar to that of medical masks, while still maintaining comparable breathability. Overall, our study suggests that cloth face coverings, especially with multiple layers, may help reduce droplet transmission of respiratory infections. Furthermore, face coverings made from biodegradable fabrics such as cotton allow washing and reusing, and can help reduce the adverse environmental effects of widespread use of commercial disposable and non-biodegradable facemasks.

Are there additional references about the effectiveness of use of cloth face coverings in preventing the spread of COVID-19?

[Physical distancing, face masks, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)

- Meta-analysis showing that use of face masks in health care and non-health care is associated with significant reduction in risk of infection, but that it does not completely eliminated the risk (17% without mask, and 3% with mask, for certain encounters).

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Universal Masking to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Transmission—The Time Is Now.

- Review article describing studies that have shown a significant protective effect of masks in health-care and non-health care settings.,

Absence of Apparent Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from Two Stylists After Exposure at a Hair Salon with a Universal Face Covering Policy — Springfield, Missouri, May 2020.

- Two symptomatic hair stylists. Both wore face coverings. 139 total clients and all wore face coverings.
- No symptomatic secondary cases reported. 67 clients tested and all were negative.

Factors Associated with Cloth Face Covering Use Among Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, April and May 2020

- “From April to May, the prevalence of reported use of cloth face coverings was higher in all sociodemographic groups in the population, especially among non-Hispanic white persons, persons aged ≥ 65 years, and persons residing in the Midwest, suggesting widespread acceptance of this recommendation.”
- “The increase in cloth face covering use continued to be reported as more persons began leaving their homes and going out in public more frequently from April to May.”

Who do I talk to regarding my opinion if face masks should be required in Columbia County?

Please talk to your elected Columbia County Board Supervisor. Per our Columbia County Corporation Counsel, Columbia County elected officials and not County employees will have to decide this question for Columbia County.

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