



# HO-CHUNK NATION

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



To: HCN Leadership and Community Members

From: Kiana Beaudin, Executive Director of Health

Date: May 17, 2021

Re: Updated guidance from CDC on masking for fully vaccinated individuals

The HCN Department of Health is aware of the new guidance that has been released from the CDC regarding the use of mask for those who are fully vaccinated (have received two doses of vaccine and are 14 days after the second dose OR received one dose of Jansen and are 14 days post vaccination). CDC was able to make this determination because generally across the US the number of COVID-19 infections have been decreasing and the number of those getting vaccinated has been increasing. However, the CDC and WI DHS has said that Tribal and Local Public Health will continue to provide recommendation and the best course of action based on the local environment.

Currently the HCN is seeing an increase in positive cases and a flattening of vaccine uptake by community members. In the latest two week HCN data reporting time period ending on May 7, 17 positive cases were identified. This is the highest number of positive cases, laboratory confirmed, in a two week period since January 22-February 5<sup>th</sup>, where 22 positive cases were reported. Of those 17 cases reported, 8 were children ages 0-17 years old. This is significant because largely this group of individuals are unable to be vaccinated because there is no approved vaccine for very young children. Often this group are considered close contacts (household members) and may go to school settings during their infectious period, increasing the spread of disease. Because our young people are not yet able to get vaccinated their means of protection against illness relies on hand washing, masking, and social distancing. **Vaccinating our eligible populations will help in keeping our youngest community members safe.** Our vaccine data also supports the early evidence that the vaccine is very effective in those fully vaccinated. To date the DOH has not received any laboratory confirmed cases from fully vaccinated individuals.

Due to the increasing cases in our community, the slowing in vaccine uptake, and the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 has had on our community (more hospitalizations and deaths than other communities) DOH continues to recommend that all community members and departments follow safe practices, continue to use masks, and encourage everyone you know to get vaccinated so that we can protect our community.

To see the latest HCN Epidemiological data please visit the HCN DOH Data Dash Board at:

<https://health.ho-chunk.com/>

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