



RESCISSION OF HEALTH OFFICER ORDER No. 2023-01b

**RESCISSION OF ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER
OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
REGARDING MANDATORY MASKING OF PERSONNEL IN
HEALTHCARE SETTINGS**

DATE OF RESCISSION: May 1, 2024

Consistent with the expiration date listed in the Order No. 2023-01b of the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco (the “Health Officer”), Order No. 2023-01b is rescinded in full, effective at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2024. That order required Personnel working in designated Healthcare Facilities in the City and County of San Francisco to wear a Well-Fitted Mask at all times when in the same room as Patients, Clients, or Residents as described in that Order. That mandate for healthcare Personnel to continue to mask between the fall of 2023 through the spring of 2024 was enacted in various forms by counties across the Bay Area in order to decrease the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses from healthcare workers to patients seeking healthcare who would have no choice but to receive in-person care and might be at continued risk for severe illness from COVID-19. As the pandemic has evolved over the past four years, most people in San Francisco have been vaccinated, have been infected with SARS-CoV-2, or both, and accordingly most of the population has more protection against the worst outcomes from COVID-19. Also, effective treatment is now available for people who do become infected. The seasonal fall and winter respiratory virus season is also over until next fall.

Despite these reasons for ending the order now, we know that COVID-19 is not “over”—transmission continues in San Francisco and some people do remain at heightened risk from COVID-19. Anyone who wishes to have additional protection is encouraged to wear well-fitting masks. Importantly, each healthcare facility still retains authority to set its own rules about masking, and there may be particular situations, such as an outbreak of respiratory illness or specific clinical settings within the facility, in relation to which masking may continue to be required. Because it is not always apparent that a patient may be at higher risk, and to continue to encourage essential healthcare visits, the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the Health Officer additionally recommend that health systems and facilities implement policies that staff will mask on patient request.

Everyone in the City remains subject to other Health Officer orders that remain in effect until they are rescinded.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



Susan Philip, MD, MSH,
Health Officer of the
City and County of San Francisco

Dated: May 1, 2024