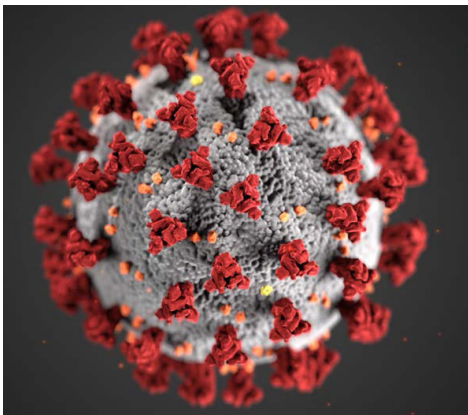


Masking Social Story

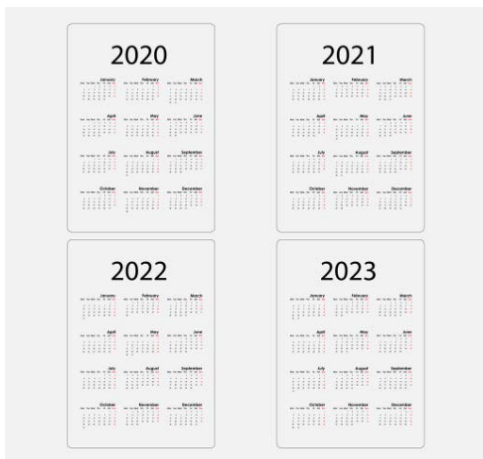
Easy-Read Edition



When the pandemic began, people had a lot of questions.

People had questions about:

How to stay safe from catching the virus
How to keep others safe from catching the virus



It has been 3 years since the pandemic started.

What we know about the virus has changed.

What we know about how to stay safe from the virus has changed.



You might ask, “What should I be doing now to stay safe?”

Do I still need to wear a mask?
When do I need to wear a mask?
Where do I need to wear a mask?



One place to find answers is the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website

The CDC is an organization that helps people understand diseases and viruses.

The CDC gives information about how to stay safe from catching the Covid-19 virus.

People can find information on the CDC website at this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/about-covid-19.html>

Guidelines are advice that you can choose to follow.

Guidelines are not rules.

People do not have to follow guidelines.

The CDC gives different guidelines depending on your personal situation.

A personal situation is something that is true for you but may not be true for everyone else.



Some personal situations that can change the guidelines for wearing a mask are:

Being more likely to get sick from the virus

Having a disability

Being deaf or hard of hearing

Living with someone who is more likely to get sick from the virus

The CDC website can tell you the Covid-19 Community Level where you live.

The Covid-19 Community Level gives guidelines on how to stay safe where you live.



The Covid-19 Community Level can be Green, Yellow, or Red

Green means the chance of catching the virus is low.

Yellow means the chance of catching the virus is medium.

Red means the chance of catching the virus is high.



If the level is Green:

You can choose to wear a mask anytime you want

You should wear a mask on the bus or train

Some places may have a rule that you need to wear a mask



If the level is Yellow:

You should wear a mask if you are more likely to get sick from the virus

You should wear a mask if you live with someone who is more likely to get sick from the virus



If the level is Red:

You should wear a mask at all times in public

You should not be with a lot of people indoors if you are more likely to get sick from the virus



The CDC has guidelines about staying safe and wearing a mask.

Guidelines are advice, but not rules.

People can choose if they will follow the CDC guidelines.

Everyone will make their own choice about how to stay safe from the virus.

Someone may choose to always wear a mask, both indoors and outdoors.

Someone may choose to only wear a mask indoors.

Someone may choose to never wear a mask.



You can choose what you will do to stay safe from the virus.

You can choose when you will wear a mask.

You can choose where you want to go.

You can choose who you want to be around.



Some businesses or buildings will say you have to wear a mask to be there.

If a business or building says you have to wear a mask, that is their rule.

You have to follow the rules for businesses or buildings that you visit.

Some businesses and buildings do not have a rule about wearing masks.

If a business or building does not have a rule about wearing masks, you can choose.

You can choose if you want to wear a mask at that business or building.

If you do not know if a business or building has a rule about wearing masks, you can:

Look at their website for information

Call their phone number to ask them

Look for a sign on the door that says their rule about wearing masks

Ask someone who works there about their rule for wearing masks



If you choose to wear a mask where there is no rule, some people may ask why.

If someone asks why you are wearing a mask, you can say:

“I am wearing a mask to stay safe.”

“Wearing a mask is my choice.”