

# The St. Patrick's Parade



A Detroit Tradition

## The New CDC Outdoor Guidelines for the Detroit St. Patrick's Parade

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has loosened its longstanding advice that people wear face masks outdoors, saying that Americans who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 no longer need to wear masks outside.

The Detroit St. Patrick's Parade will include many people in an OUTDOOR space. The CDC Guidelines for outdoor events include sporting events, festivals, concerts, or Parades. The UIS has included these CDC Guidelines on our Parade website and will distribute with all Parade Applications. We'll also ask people to social distance with people that are not immediate family.

In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. In areas of substantial or high transmission, people might choose to wear a mask outdoors when in sustained close contact with other people, particularly if they or someone they live with has a weakened immune system or is at increased risk for severe disease or if they are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccines or live with someone who is not up to date on COVID-19 vaccines.

Even those who are unvaccinated can go mask-free when walking, jogging or biking outdoors. The new guidance reflects substantial scientific research that shows the risk of outdoor coronavirus transmission is low and also happens to be closely aligned with what many Americans are already doing. Eager to get outside this spring and summer and reconnect with friends and loved ones? Here's what the new precautions mean for you.

If you're fully vaccinated, you no longer need to wear a mask outside for the most part

If you're fully vaccinated — meaning it has been at least two weeks since you received the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or it has been two weeks since you got the Johnson & Johnson shot — then you “no longer need to wear a mask outdoors, except in certain crowded settings and venues,” the CDC now advises.

**Communication Strategy:** Parade organizers will communicate public health guidance clearly and effectively to attendees and participants - Post information about the

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symptoms of COVID-19 in order to help attendees and employees to self-assess whether they have any symptoms. – We'll display signs regarding COVID-19 mitigation measures throughout outdoor the venue. Make regular PA announcements regarding COVID-19 mitigation measures from the reviewing stands and the Family Fun Zone. and other event rules. - Provide a list of all nearby sites to receive a COVID-19 test to all individuals who attend large outdoor events.

**Face Masks in Crowded Spaces:** The Parade will recommend that individuals continue to wear face masks while in crowded spaces outdoors, especially individuals who are not yet fully vaccinated. - While gathering in outdoor settings lowers the risk of COVID-19 transmission because of fresh air flow, it is still possible to breathe in enough of the respiratory droplets containing the virus that causes COVID-19 to become infected when gathered close to others unmasked. Although fully vaccinated people can participate in outdoor recreation without wearing a mask, we'll recommend that you should absolutely wear one if you're going to be in a crowded outdoor setting, the CDC says. That might include a live performance, a parade or any kind of sports event.

**Physical Distancing Protocols:** The Parade Organizers (outdoor event) have developed plans to prevent congestion on the Parade Route. The Family Fun Zone will enter at the private gate off Michigan Ave and 6<sup>th</sup> Street using touchless pre-purchased ticketing. There will be a limited number of tickets sold for the Fun Zone based on social distancing protocols. The Fun Zone will have private restroom facilities and wash stations including sanitizer.

The Parade Participants will stage at selected parking lots on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Porter and Howard where social distancing will be required. Each Division will be spaced out in the staging area and Parade Company Volunteers will oversee these safety protocols. There will be (2) marshal booths located at the staging area with sanitizer and additional copies of the COVID Protocol. There are no designated entrance areas for the Parade attendees. The access to the Parade Route is open from every street along the Parade Route. Spectators on the Parade Route will be encouraged to wear mask and social distance.

**Food and Beverage Service Requirements:** The Parade is only providing Donuts and Coffee for the Fun Zone. No other food or beverages will be provided by the Organizers. Coffee and donuts in the Fun Zone will only be consumed while seated in designated

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areas. While eating/drinking, no more than 6 people should be seated together in a group, and groups should be separated by at least 6 feet; groups should avoid mingling.

**Event Hygiene Procedures:** The Parade organizers established a schedule for increased, routine cleaning to disinfect common spaces of the Family Fun Zone. We will use FDA-approved cleaning supplies. We have over 220 restrooms and wash stations with sanitizer along the Parade Route and will institute distancing markers six feet apart for queues. There will be waste receptacles along the Parade Route and will be cleaned by PGA before and after the Parade.

With these protocols in place and the fact that changes in guidance around outdoor mask-wearing has determined that “Less than 10% of global cases over the past year have been associated with outdoor exposure. Fresh air helps move and disperse the droplets that spread the coronavirus, and UV light may also play a role” we’ll have a safe outdoor event. While research looking at outdoor transmission was conducted before widespread vaccination. That means the transmission risk outdoors now is likely even lower, particularly in areas where a large percentage of the population has been vaccinated. **We anticipate a SAFE and Successful Parade.**

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