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## **Gov. Wolf: Mask-Wearing is Required, Critical to Stop COVID-19 Spread**

**Harrisburg, PA** – Governor Tom Wolf today reminded Pennsylvanians that mask-wearing is required when entering any business in all counties in the state in both yellow and green phases of reopening. Masks are considered critical in stopping the spread of COVID, now and in preparation for a possible resurgence of the virus in the fall.

The mask requirement is part of Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel's Levine's [order](#), "Directing Public Health Safety Measures for Businesses Permitted to Maintain In-person Operations," which pertains to all counties regardless of the phase of reopening.

"In yellow and green counties, it is required that masks are worn when visiting businesses to protect employees, employees' families, and communities as a whole," Gov. Wolf said. "Mask-wearing has proven to be an important deterrent to the spread of the virus, and as more counties move to green and more things reopen, we need to be vigilant in our efforts to continue our mitigation efforts."

A recent [study](#) from Cambridge and Greenwich universities in the United Kingdom found that cloth masks, "even homemade masks with limited effectiveness can dramatically reduce transmission rates if worn by enough people, regardless of whether they show symptoms."

Peer-reviewed studies published in scientific journals such as [The New England Journal of Medicine](#) corroborate the need for masks and the U.S. Surgeon General said that wearing a mask doesn't impinge on our freedom – it gives us more freedom from unknowingly spreading COVID-19.

The state's [business guidance](#) outlines mask-wearing requirements and additional safety parameters for both employees and customers.

Read more on Gov. Wolf's Process to Reopen PA [here](#).