



COVID-19

Free KN95 and Surgical-Grade Masks to libraries and community centers

Frequently asked questions

Where are the free masks available?

Our website is continuously updated with sites offering free masks statewide. Please visit <https://covid19.colorado.gov/freemasks> for the latest information. **Only the sites listed on this site are currently distributing masks.** These sites have opted-in to the program and masks were first delivered to sites on 1/18/22. If a site temporarily runs out of masks, their supply will be replenished once the location places a new order of masks from the state.

How can a community organization become a distribution site?

To be considered for this program, you should be a high traffic community center that agrees to be a local redistribution point. This means that once you receive the masks, you will make them available to the public. This program is not intended to relieve an employer's cost of providing personal protective equipment to their staff.

How many masks can you get?

There is a limit of five masks per person per month. Please remember that this program is designed to provide high quality personal protective equipment to Coloradans who might be especially at risk during the pandemic and might not otherwise have access to highly protective masks.

What types of masks are available?

Adult sized KN95 and surgical-grade masks.

Who should the public contact for information?

Please visit our website: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/freemasks> for the latest information or call the state COVID-19 call center for information at 1-877-CO VAX CO (1-877-268-2926).

Once I arrive at a site to pick up my masks, what do I do?

Speak to the staff at the front desk during normal operating hours. As a reminder, there is a limit of five masks per person per month.

What do I do if someone tries to charge me for masks?

These masks are free and you should not be asked to pay for them. If you are, let us know by calling the COVID-19 call center at 1-877-CO VAX CO (1-877-268-2926).

How safe are these masks?

When fitted properly, KN95 and surgical masks are safe to wear and provide excellent protection against COVID-19. CDC has guidance on [different kinds of masks](#) that work well to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including KN95 and surgical-grade masks.

Are these masks safe for my children to wear to school?

The key to using masks effectively and safely is consistent use and proper fit. The masks provided in this program are adult size masks. The State of Colorado has a simultaneous program with schools that distribute child size masks. Please check with your child's school to see if they are participating in this program. To learn about proper mask usage please visit: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/mask-guidance>.

How is the State of Colorado paying for this program?

The cost for both the surgical-grade and KN95 masks are funded by FEMA. The state is paying for transportation and shipping costs.

Why is wearing a mask important?

While vaccination greatly reduces the chances of getting very sick, needing to be hospitalized, or dying from COVID-19, vaccinated people still can catch and spread the virus. Wearing a mask even after vaccination helps protect you and other people from COVID-19.

Some counties in Colorado may require people to wear masks in indoor public places. You can [contact your local public health agency](#) for more information about whether masks are required in your area. Some businesses may also require masks. CDPHE encourages all Coloradans to keep masks with them in public and wear them when asked.

In some specific places, state law requires people to wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and keep others safe. [Learn more about where masks are required by state law](#).

Federal law requires everyone age 2 and older to wear masks on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States. Masks

are also required in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and train stations. Everyone has to wear a mask while using public transportation, regardless of whether or not they are vaccinated.