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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State removes requirement for outdoor face coverings

EAGLE LAKE, Maine (April 28, 2021) – The Office of Governor Janet T. Mills issued the following COVID-19 update yesterday, shared here in its entirety:

“Governor Mills encourages Maine people to get vaccinated and to get outside to safely enjoy all that Maine has to offer

Governor Janet Mills announced today that Maine is updating its public health guidance to remove the requirement that people wear face coverings in outdoor settings.

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) recommends that people wear face coverings in outdoor settings where it is difficult to maintain physical distancing. Face coverings are still required for indoor public settings, and there are no changes to Maine’s physical distancing requirements at this time. The change follows updated guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including the use of face coverings in outdoor settings.

“We are updating Maine’s public health guidance to reflect the U.S. CDC’s latest recommendations that indicate the risk of transmitting COVID-19 while outdoors is low, especially as more people get vaccinated,” **said Governor Janet Mills.** “With the summer months nearly upon us, this offers a great opportunity for people to get outside and safely enjoy all that Maine has to offer. I applaud all the work Maine people have put in to protect themselves and others and continue to encourage them to get vaccinated and

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wear a mask when inside or when around others so that we can get this pandemic fully behind us.”

“Scientific studies continue to show that outdoor activities are much safer than indoor ones,” said **Maine CDC Director Nirav D. Shah**. “As more Maine people become vaccinated against COVID-19, outdoor activities become that much safer.”

The change is effective immediately and relevant guidance documents will be updated in the coming days.

Despite having the oldest median age population in the country, Maine, adjusted for population, ranks fourth lowest among states in both the total number of COVID-19 cases and number of deaths from COVID-19, according to the U.S. CDC.

Maine has administered more than 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine and is currently second in the nation in the percent of its population that is fully vaccinated, according to the [Bloomberg tracker](#).

Additionally, according to Moody’s Analytics and CNN Business’s [“Back to Normal Index”](#), Maine is best in New England in returning to pre-pandemic economic activity.”

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