



Press Release - For Immediate Release

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## Teton County and the City of Victor Join Driggs in Rescinding Mask Orders

- Masking and Social Distancing Precautions Still Strongly Recommended
- Teton County Vaccination Program Continues to Make Progress

### Mask Orders Lifted across Teton County except for schools; continued precautions recommended

Except for mask requirements at local schools and inside local government facilities, face coverings are no longer mandated in Teton County, Idaho or the cities. Individual property and business owners may choose to continue to require masks. Masking and social distancing practices are still strongly recommended by health professionals and local leaders, who recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a risk to the community, even as vaccination efforts make progress.

At a special meeting on Wednesday, April 28, the Teton County Board of County Commissioners voted to rescind the county-wide mask ordinance enacted last August, which mandated face coverings in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This decision followed a similar move earlier in the week by the City of Driggs, which rescinded its mask ordinance on April 26. Wednesday evening, the Victor city council followed suit by lifting its mask order, using language nearly identical to the Driggs order. The City of Teton has never instituted mandatory rules for face coverings.

**In their official actions, Driggs, Victor and the County all strongly recommended that the public continue to maintain 6-foot social distancing in public spaces, wear masks when social distancing is impractical, and avoid large indoor gatherings.** They also made clear that property owners and businesses have the option to require face coverings on their premises, but must post notice or signage to indicate accordingly. Customers and patrons are strongly encouraged to be respectful of businesses and property owners' requests to wear masks. The Sheriff's Office can be called upon in the event of issues with non-compliance of mask requirements in local businesses and on private property.

Masks are still required of those who enter County facilities, the Victor City Hall and council chambers, the Driggs City Hall and Community Center, various businesses, schools, and the libraries. Any place where it is posted, masks are still required of all who enter.

To view the ordinances rescinding mandatory face covering requirements, see the links below:

Teton County: [https://www.tetoncountyidaho.gov/use\\_images/pdf/ordinance2021-0428rescindingmaskorder.pdf](https://www.tetoncountyidaho.gov/use_images/pdf/ordinance2021-0428rescindingmaskorder.pdf)

Driggs: [https://www.driggsidaho.org/use\\_images/city\\_clerk/publichealthemergencyorder4.20.21.pdf](https://www.driggsidaho.org/use_images/city_clerk/publichealthemergencyorder4.20.21.pdf)

Victor: <https://www.victorcityidaho.com/City%20Council%20Meetings/2021/04282021/Mask%20Mandate.pdf>

The Board of Trustees of **Teton School District 401** has kept the district's COVID-19 Reopening Plan in place; the plan requires masks on all school properties. However, at its meeting April 19, the school board added clarifying language that says masks can be removed while outdoors as long as 6-foot physical distancing is possible. The updates are in blue at this link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17yi2r0YRDRlPbjLUaJ9XVyuZI4UIQgmzN4eUFw4BP6k/edit>

## **Teton County Vaccination Progress**

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare reports that 45.37% of persons in Teton County aged 16 or older have received at least one vaccine shot so far, or 4,334 of 9,552 people within that age range. (The total estimated population for Teton County, including those under 16, is 11,177.) However, those numbers somewhat underestimate the county's current vaccination rate, as many local residents have obtained vaccines in Jackson. The Teton County (Wyoming) Health Department estimates that they have administered around 1100 vaccinations to Teton County, Idaho residents or about 550 fully vaccinated people.

Teton County, Idaho Emergency Manager Greg Adams says this pushes the rate of partially or fully vaccinated residents locally to over 50%, which would compare favorably to most of Idaho. Ada and Valley counties are slightly ahead of Teton County with partial vaccination rates hovering around 53%, while Blaine County leads the state by far, with 73% of 16+ adults having received at least one shot. The median age in Blaine County (42.9 years) is notably higher than Teton County (32.7) and the state of Idaho as a whole (36.4), and it was hit hard in the early days of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Vaccination progress is certainly encouraging, but we still have a way to go. Most medical experts estimate that 70% to 85% of the population needs to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity from COVID-19.

## **How to get vaccinated in Teton County, Idaho**

The Teton Community Vaccination Clinic continues to offer shots every week. To sign up for the Teton Community vaccination clinic online visit: <https://www.idahoprepmod.com/> On that website click on the find a clinic button and after that type Driggs in the Search by Name of Location box and hit search.

If you do not find a Driggs clinic option, it is because all available appointments have been filled. The site will refresh every Monday at 1 pm with new available appointments.

Or, you can sign up by phone by contacting the call center, which opens every Monday at 1 PM: 208-716-0063.

Both the online sign up option and the call center will be open until available appointments are filled. A Spanish speaker is available at the call center and the online registration site has a Spanish translation option as well.

For those who do not get an appointment, the vaccine clinic is now offering same-day vaccinations Thursday at 3PM at the Church next to the Hospital at 225 N. 1st St., Driggs. The number available will be determined how many scheduled patients have missed their appointments and the clinic will offer those doses to same-day patients on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in getting a same day vaccination, please go to the Stake Center parking lot on Thursday at 3PM and check in at the entrance door.

EIPH is also vaccinating in Teton County. Please call their office at 208-533-3223 to schedule an appointment for an upcoming clinic. Visit the EIPH website for further details at <https://eiph.idaho.gov/>

Broulim's Pharmacy in Driggs is offering COVID-19 vaccines in the pharmacy on select days. Please visit their website to schedule an appointment: [https://broulims.com/covid-19\\_vaccine](https://broulims.com/covid-19_vaccine)

Want to know more about the vaccines? Teton Valley Health held a COVID-19 Vaccine Public Forum on April 20. The broadcast of that Q&A session is archived on the Teton School District 401 YouTube Channel, at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSEWf\\_3dSCw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSEWf_3dSCw)