

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 4, 2021

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jonathan Starkey

Cell: (302) 256-8364

Jonathan.Starkey@delaware.gov



Delaware Governor John Carney
Governor Carney, DPH Announce Major Changes to
COVID-19 Restrictions

Effective May 21, most capacity restrictions lifted; Delawareans should follow CDC mask guidance outdoors; larger events still require plan approval from DPH

WILMINGTON, Del. — Governor John Carney and the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) on Tuesday announced major upcoming changes to Delaware's COVID-19 restrictions.

Effective Friday, May 21:

- All capacity restrictions inside restaurants, retail, other business establishments and houses of worship will be lifted. Facilities will be able to use as much capacity as social distancing requirements will allow.
- Masks will still be required indoors to prevent spread of COVID-19.
- Outdoors, Delawareans should follow [masking guidance](#) issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Risk for COVID-19 spread increases in large crowds that include unvaccinated people. In those cases, CDC recommends that everyone continue to wear a mask.* DPH may require masks for crowded venues and large gatherings including concerts, sporting events, etc.
- Social distancing requirements will move from 6 feet to 3 feet.
- Customers must continue to remain seated indoors and outdoors at bars and restaurants, unless a plan for dance floors and other areas is approved by DPH, and distancing of at least 3 feet should be maintained.
- Events over 250 people indoors and outdoors will still require plan approval from DPH to ensure compliance with basic precautions to prevent spread of COVID-19.

The changes will be formalized in an upcoming modification to Governor Carney's COVID-19 emergency order.

“COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities but we have the tools to prevent severe illness and hospitalization,” said **Governor Carney**. “Get vaccinated. And ask to your friends and family if they’ve gotten their shot. That’s the best thing you can do to protect yourself and those you love.”

As of **Monday, May 3**, Delaware providers had administered 762,869 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. More than 53 percent of Delawareans 16 and older have received at least one shot.

“We are excited to be at the point in our state’s efforts where we can lift these restrictions, but it’s important to remember that our efforts are not over and we are not out of the woods yet. There will still be some risk of transmission, especially in crowded settings, with the more contagious variants circulating at high levels in our state,” said **Dr. Karyl Rattay, Director of the Division of Public Health**. “So let’s enter this next phase of the recovery responsibly, wearing masks indoors and getting vaccinated if you haven’t.”