



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	22 TA/DC084 Upstate and New York City
Date:	September 12, 2022
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners
From:	Cheryl Contento, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Shelter Oversight and Compliance
Subject:	Expiration of Emergency Masking Regulations, 18 NYCRR § 304.3
Effective Date:	September 9, 2022
Contact Information:	Division of Shelter Oversight and Compliance 518-486-4040 or otda.sm.css.bss@otda.ny.gov

Section 2

The purpose of the General Information System (GIS) message is to inform local social services districts (districts) that the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)'s COVID-19 masking requirements in congregate shelters, initially promulgated as an emergency regulation on December 15, 2021, and readopted March 15, 2022, May 13, 2022, and July 12, 2022, expired on Friday, September 9, 2022. Effective immediately, masking will no longer be required in congregate shelters. Shelter operators should continue to provide masks at no cost to residents and staff. No individual shall be discouraged from wearing a mask, and shelter operators should encourage shelter staff, volunteers, and residents to continue wearing masks should community/facility transmission rates rise.

This guidance supersedes any prior guidance requiring masking in congregate shelters, including Section E of the Interim Guidance to Operators of Congregate Facilities Providing Shelter to Individuals Who are Homeless, issued June 16, 2021.