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OPERATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin #	Title		Date Issued
#2021-03-11-01	Clarification of U.S. CDC's Guidance Regarding Those Who are Fully Vaccinated		March 11, 2021
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N/A	Maine EMS	Maine EMS, Maine CDC, U.S. CDC	1
Approved By:	J. Sam Hurley, MPH, EMPS, NRP (Maine EMS Director)		

On March 8, 2021, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated their “When You’ve Been Fully Vaccinated,” [website](#). As more persons across the United States receive their vaccination, the U.S. CDC has now recommended to the general public that persons who have been fully vaccinated may opt to gather with other fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.

It is extremely important to emphasize that there hasn’t been 100% uptake of the COVID-19 vaccination within the EMS community. The U.S. CDC guidance explicitly states that you should not remove masks in situations where you’re gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household or if you’re interacting with someone who readily interacts with persons who are at increased risk.

At this time, Maine EMS would like to remind EMS clinicians throughout the state that this guidance regarding not masking does *NOT* apply to EMS clinicians or the healthcare environment that we regulate. Maine EMS continues to require that EMS agencies and clinicians maintain strong PPE vigilance as we continue to combat this global pandemic. It is important that agencies continue to require staff to wear masks at all times when around others, despite vaccination status. As the numbers have demonstrated, vaccination efforts and other steps are making a difference; however, moving too quickly and reducing protective measures prematurely could be disastrous.

If you have any additional questions, comments, or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to the EMS office at maine.ems@maine.gov or (207) 626-3860.

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