



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30329-4027

8.20.2021

Michael A. Carome, MD
Director
Public Citizen's Health Research Group
1600 20th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Dr. Carome:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Xavier Becerra and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH, regarding CDC's updated guidance for fully vaccinated people. I am responding on behalf of Secretary Becerra and Dr. Walensky.

CDC continuously updates guidance, resources, and tools as we learn more about COVID-19 and as conditions evolve. Based on new evidence¹ about the Delta variant currently circulating in the United States, which shows that on rare occasions vaccinated people can get a breakthrough infection and may be contagious, CDC issued updated *Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People* on July 27, 2021.² The guidance recommends that people age 12 and older who are fully vaccinated wear a mask indoors in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission³ to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others.

As CDC has done throughout the COVID-19 response, we are continuing to update our guidance documents based on the best available science and on the trajectory of the pandemic in the United States.

We appreciate your letter about this important public health topic. CDC remains committed to leading with science, promoting equity, and protecting the American public during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "HW", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Henry Walke, MD, MPH
Incident Manager
COVID-19 Emergency Response
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

³ <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>