



No More Masks: US Judge Overturns Mask Mandate

[BY ANDREW CURRAN](#)

long running mask mandate and airlines & passengers responded swiftly.



It was announced yesterday that a federal judge has sensationally overturned the US mask mandate, voiding the recent US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention extension. On Monday, US District Judge Kathryn Kimball Michel said the mandate was unlawful because it violated administrative law and exceeded the statutory authority of the CDC. As a result, the White House has confirmed the mask mandate is no longer in effect.

Spectacular upset of the CDC's mask mandate

An Idaho-based NGO called Health Freedom Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against the [mask mandate](#) last year, arguing it was unlawful and violated the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). Monday's ruling was a response to that lawsuit. The mask mandate came into effect early last year after US President Joe Biden assumed office. It required people aged two years and above to wear a face mask at all times while using public transport and related infrastructure across the country (such as airports). Last week, despite some expectations the mandate would end, [the CDC extended it until May 3](#).

Judge Michel's noted that the CDC failed to adequately explain its decisions. The ruling reads:

"The mask mandate exceeds to CDC's statutory authority and violates the APA. "Because our system does not permit agencies to act unlawfully even in pursuit of desirable ends, the Court declares it unlawful and vacates the mask mandate."

"Today's court decision means CDC's public transportation masking order is not in effect at this time," says a White House statement. "Therefore, TSA will not enforce its Security Directives and Emergency Amendment requiring mask use on public transportation and transportation hubs at this time."

Already, in significant [aviation news](#), airlines are responding to the changes. *"Effective immediately, all Alaska Airlines and Horizon Air guests and employees have the option to wear a mask while traveling in the U.S. and at work,"* says a statement on the Alaska Airlines website.

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"Masks are no longer required on domestic flights, select international flights (dependent upon the arrival country's requirements) or at US airports. More comfortable keeping yours on? Go right ahead - the choice is yours," advises [United Airlines](#).



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