

Arizona Governor Lifts Mask Mandates & All COVID Restrictions

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Arizona Governor Doug Ducey issued an executive order that all COVID-19 restrictions and local mask mandates have been lifted, citing a high number of vaccinations in the state, about three million out of a population of 7.3 million people. Businesses will still be able to set their own policies on masks, capacity limits, and social distancing. Arizona joins Texas, Mississippi, Iowa, Wyoming and Montana in lifting mask mandate. Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, and Utah will end requirements in the coming weeks. A dozen other states never had mask mandates. -GEG

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey (R) has announced in an executive order that all COVID-19 restrictions and local mask mandates have been lifted, citing a high number of vaccinations in the state.

Ducey's **order** declares that COVID restrictions "are lifted and shall no longer be enforced" and that businesses may "resume normal operations."

Additionally, it prohibits local governments from enforcing mask mandates, although businesses will still be able to enforce their own.

"No county, city or town may make or issue any order, rule or regulation that conflicts with or is in addition to the policy, directives or intent of this or any other

executive order relating to the COVID-19 public health emergency or any other order, rule or regulation that was not in place as of March 11, 2020," the order states.

Ducey first made the announcement Thursday, noting that 3 million people have been vaccinated as the state see its tenth consecutive week of declining cases and record-low hospitalizations.

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