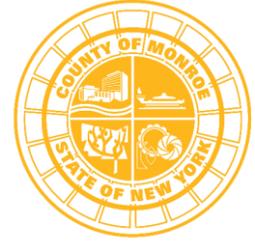




News from the Office of  
**Adam J. Bello**  
Monroe County Executive



**For Immediate Release**  
**Thursday, May 13, 2021**

**JOINT STATEMENT FROM MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE ADAM BELLO AND  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DR. MICHAEL MENDOZA**

**ROCHESTER, NY** — Monroe County Executive Adam Bello and Monroe County Commissioner of Public Health Dr. Michael Mendoza are urging Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state Department of Health to adopt the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s new mask guidance for fully vaccinated and non-vaccinated people.

“We are pleased to see the new scientific guidance shows that fully vaccinated people may safely go without wearing masks or maintaining social distance in most indoor and outdoor settings. This is welcome news, and we know that many in our community are looking to shed their masks when it is safe and effective to do so. We encourage the Governor and the state Department of Health to adjust New York’s mask mandate to reflect the latest guidance from the CDC. While the mandate was essential to slowing the spread of the virus and protecting our health and safety, we now have another, even more powerful tool. Vaccination works, and the CDC recognizes that. We believe New York State should as well.”

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