

Mask or not? Californians now have a choice

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To mask, or not to mask?

After the state dropped most COVID-19 restrictions Tuesday, including the mask mandate for most settings, some Californians and visitors to the state are still confused about the rules.

Chris and Arlayne Easeman from Seattle, Washington stopped at the Crescent City Walmart on their way to San Francisco. Although they are both vaccinated, the couple was preparing to enter the store masked-up when the Triplicate interviewed them.

Arlayne said they would keep their masks on unless they were told otherwise. Despite the change, a face mask requirement sign remained above the store entrance.

“For me it’s more of a common courtesy. It has nothing to do with my rights, it’s common sense and common courtesy,” said Arlayne. “If I can do something as minimal as wearing a mask, and it protects me from you and you from me, why not?”

In May, Walmart and Costco dropped mask requirements for vaccinated workers and customers in places without mask mandates, but the rules in California stores remained unchanged until now. Additionally, the company does not require proof of vaccination for customers or its workers, relying on the honor system if employees want to go maskless while they work, according to news reports.

Local David Froom was exiting the store maskless. He said he got vaccinated because he takes care of his 83-year-old mother, which includes doing her grocery shopping.

Froom said he stays away from businesses that require him to wear a mask because they cause him breathing issues. He had not heard about the state lifting mask mandates and other COVID-19 guidelines, but he said he was opposed to some of the restrictions in the first place, which he thinks hurt the economy.

“I’ve never had anyone around me, close, that’s had [Covid-19,]” said Froom.

Meanwhile, Dodger Stadium opened up to a full capacity crowd for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic on Tuesday, allowing up to 60,000 fans in for the game against the Phillies, according to news reports. Fully-vaccinated fans were allowed to sit in “vaccination sections” of the stadium without masks, after patrons showed proof of vaccination, however, masks were required for other fans, as well as employees.