

Mask Observation in 20 Retail Sites Pre and Post Policy Implementation 3 Time Points

Findings Compiled by
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Four MPH students from the University of Memphis School of Public Health observed mask usage among approximately 4,000 individuals in a total of 20 retail sites across Shelby County during each of three time points: **June 15-21, 2020 (pre-policies); July 9-15, 2020 (post policies) and August 10-16, 2020 (one-month post-policy implementation).**

Site locations were identified by the Shelby County Health Department, with 10 sites categorized as being in High COVID-19 Transmission zip codes and 10 in Low COVID-19 Transmission zip codes.

Overall mask use: (all locations combined) increased dramatically after policy implementation and increased further one-month post-policy implementation:

Pre policies: June 15-21: **51%**

Post 1: July 9-15: **92%**

Post 2: Aug. 10-16: **96%**

Increased mask use with age; highest use among older adults. The age gradient increased over time, with at least 90% compliance for all age groups one-month post-policy implementation:

Pre-policies:	Post 1	Post 2
2-18: 35%	85%	90%
19-24: 39%	91%	95%
25-40: 46%	92%	96%
41-55: 58%	94%	96%
55+: 64%	94%	97%

Rate of compliance for each race/ethnicity increased over time to over 90% compliance for each group that mostly remained or increased one-month post policies. The Hispanic/Latinx group showed the most dramatic increase, from 34% to 93%. White and Black groups had similar rates of compliance at all time points, increasing from ~50% pre policies to ~92% post policies and further increasing to 96% at one-month post policy implementation. Asians had the highest initial rate of compliance (91%) that increased to 96% post policies and returned to pre-policy rate one-month post-policy:

Pre-policies:	Post 1	Post 2	
Latinx:	34%	93%	93%
White:	51%	93%	96%
Black:	53%	92%	96%
Asians:	91%	96%	91%

Greater mask usage in LOW transmission zip codes vs HIGH transmission zip codes for all time points, with dramatic increases in both groups:

	Pre-policies	Post 1	Post 2
High transmission:	43%	91%	94%
Low transmission:	60%	94%	97%

Summary: mask usage increased dramatically for all age, race, and ethnic groups after implementation of the mask policies. The increases were not only sustained but, in most cases, surpassed one-month post implementation.

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