

## The use of face masks is no longer mandatory on public transport

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- **Starting today, Wednesday, 8 February 2023, the use of face masks is no longer mandatory and it will only be recommended in the event of symptoms compatible with flu, Covid-19 and any other respiratory diseases or people vulnerable to health risks.**

*Barcelona, 8 February 2023.-* Royal Decree 65/2023 of 7 February 2023, published in the Official State Gazette today, 8 February, repeals the previous RD 286/2022 of 19 April 2022 and eliminates the mandatory use of face masks on public transport throughout the State.

The above will thus put an end to a measure in force since 4 May 2020 during the State of Alarm, which sought to make public transport a space guaranteeing greater health safety, a purpose made possible by the joint efforts of the transport operators and the cooperation of users.

Two years after the ban, the Royal Decree of 19 April 2022 amended the mandatory use of face masks on public transport, making it only obligatory inside carriages and when the minimum safety distance could not be maintained, excluding, in this case, the platforms and facilities, where their use was only recommended.

From now onwards, as indicated by the Ministry of Health of the Catalan Government, **it will only be advisable to wear them in the event of symptoms** compatible with flu, Covid-19 and any other respiratory diseases or people vulnerable to health risks.

Public transport operators will update their signage, public address announcements, websites and social media messages by removing the obligation while requesting responsible use of face masks.