**Governor, Columbia councilmembers say mask mandates not under consideration, focus remains on vaccinations**

By [Mary Green](https://www.wistv.com/authors/mary-green/)

Published: Jul. 28, 2021, at 8:05 PM EDT

COLUMBIA, S.C. (WIS) - As cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in South Carolina, Gov. Henry McMaster said the decision of whether to wear a mask will continue to be a personal choice.

McMaster has encouraged South Carolinians to get vaccinated but will not be requiring them to do that, or to wear a mask either.

He said the state is sticking with its current approach, which is to give people information and access to the vaccine and let them make the decision for themselves of what to do with it.

“It’s an individual choice, but as information comes in about variants, about what’s happening in other states, all these sorts of things, it is a topic for discussion,” McMaster said. “But what we are doing as a state, we are not requiring anybody to do that, but we will give them all the information and make it available. Both the information and the vaccine are available to them, easily available to them.”

McMaster said he believes South Carolina has taken the correct approach to the virus, pointing to what he called “booming” business in the state as proof.

The governor characterized the restrictions that other states have taken in response to the pandemic as “more draconian methods.”

“They went too far,” he said. “I think we did it right and by doing it right, we will continue to do it right, and that is to be sure that all of our people have access to the vaccines as well as to all the information that’s available about the vaccines.”

When asked if he personally would be wearing a mask, in accordance with the latest guidance from the CDC, McMaster said he would not, as he has been vaccinated and has had COVID.

*Copyright 2021 WIS. All rights reserved.*

Source: https://www.wistv.com/2021/07/29/governor-columbia-councilmembers-say-mask-mandates-not-under-consideration-focus-remains-vaccinations/