



## DUTERTE: FACE SHIELD A MUST, INDOORS OR OUTDOORS

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Face shields remain a must, whether indoors or outdoors, a Malacañang official announced on Monday evening.

"Acting on the advice of health experts and in view of the Delta variant, [President Duterte] declared that the wearing of face shields, both indoor and outdoor, is

still mandatory," presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said on Twitter.

Mr. Duterte made the decision following a meeting with the government's pandemic task force. Just last week, the President was quoted by Roque as telling senators during a meeting that face shields should be worn only in hospitals.

However, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious

Diseases (IATF) appealed the President's order and pushed for the continuous wearing of face shields "in all enclosed, indoor spaces of hospitals, schools, workplaces, commercial establishments such as but not limited to food establishment, malls and public markets, public transport and terminals and places of workshops."

Just hours before his tweet, Roque said in a press briefing that face shields

would no longer be required in outdoor settings, except when using public transportation or inside crowded public places. But he added that the President was expected to issue a memorandum on the matter soon.

The IATF mandated the wearing of face shields outside residence in December last year as part of efforts to prevent a surge of COVID-19 cases during and after the holiday season. INQ