



TOWN OF ASHFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH

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COVID-19 MANDATORY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR WEARING OF MASKS OR OTHER FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC INDOOR SPACES IN THE TOWN OF ASHFIELD

WHEREAS, the Delta variants are now accounting for the vast majority of positive cases in Massachusetts (source <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions>); and

WHEREAS, these variants are almost twice as contagious as previous variants; and

WHEREAS, we know that masks slow or prevent transmission of all COVID-19 variants so far; and

WHEREAS, as we see cases rise in surrounding counties and communities, we are committed to preventing transmission, keeping our numbers as low as possible, and preventing our most vulnerable from severe illness with a new mask mandate; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, "Given what we know about the Delta variant, vaccine effectiveness, and current vaccine coverage, layered prevention strategies, including the wearing of masks, are needed to reduce the transmission of this variant."

NOW, THEREFORE, commencing on **Friday October 22, 2021, at 12:01 a.m.**, the following Order **MUST** be implemented at all times at all public indoor spaces in the Town of TOWN OF ASHFIELD.

Section 1 Authority:

This order is promulgated under the authority granted to the Board of Health under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 111, Section 31.

Section 2 Definitions:

Public Indoor Spaces - The term "public indoor spaces" shall include all places into which members of the public are invited or otherwise allowed to enter a building or structure to interact with any persons in order to or transact any public or private business. This includes but is not limited to restaurants, bars, offices, indoor performance and event venues, hotels and motels, gyms, fitness clubs, salons, places of worship.

Section 3 Order:

Masks are required in all indoor public places as well as private places open to the public, regardless of vaccination status, for those over the age of five (5) years old. Masks will also be required for outdoor public events where physical distancing of six (6) feet cannot be maintained among people of different households.

1. Employees of public indoor spaces must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the business, unless alone in their personal workspace.
2. Employees in office spaces which are enclosed with a barrier between the public and employees are exempt from wearing a mask or face covering when not interacting with the public.
3. Customers of and visitors to public indoor spaces in the Town of Ashfield must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the business, unless seated in a restaurant or bar.

Section 4 Public Notice:

The person or entity in control of a public indoor space shall have the obligation to notify their employees and the public of the requirements of the mask mandate set forth in this order. Such notification shall include signage affixed to each entrance; the Board of Health upon request will provide such signage.

Section 5 Effective:

This order is in effect at 12:01 a.m. on Friday October 22, 2021.

Board of Health Members

 10/20/21
Evelyn Resh, Chair Date

 10/20/21
Duncan Colter Date

/s/ Caroline White 10/20/2021
Caroline White Date