



TOWN OF LANCASTER

BOARD OF HEALTH

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Lancaster Board of Health

COVID -19 Public Health Mandate

Effective September 8, 2021

At their meeting on September 3, 2021, the Board of Health discussed the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. We considered the following elements:

1. On May 28, 2021, Governor Charles Baker declared, pursuant to Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, that an emergency exists that is detrimental to the public health in the Commonwealth
2. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that unvaccinated persons over the age of two (2) wear a mask in indoor public places
3. There has been an increase in infections from the COVID-19 Delta variant
4. Children under the age of 12 remain ineligible to receive a vaccine for COVID-19
5. There is medical evidence showing that children infected with the Delta variant of COVID-19 are more likely to suffer illness than the original strain
6. CDC's "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools" dated August 5, 2021, recommends the universal indoor face masking of all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status
7. The American Academy of Pediatrics' "COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools" dated July 18, 2021, recommends that all students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear face masks at school unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit such use
8. In a joint memorandum dated July 30, 2021, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and DPH recommended that all students in kindergarten through grade 6 wear masks when indoors, except students who cannot do so due to medical conditions or behavioral needs, and except when students are outdoors or eating indoors
9. The Board of Health has received numerous concerns from parents of children attending private schools in Lancaster where face coverings and social distancing are not being required
10. Lancaster continues to demonstrate a low rate of vaccination relative to surrounding communities.

As a result, the Board is issuing the following public health mandate, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 111 §§ 31 and 104; to protect the public health and reduce the risk of viral transmission:

Effective September 8, 2021, 7:00 am, it is mandated that all individuals aged two years and older wear facecoverings in all indoor spaces, public or private (open to the public), except where an individual is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability. This order includes but not limited to the following:

- **Public buildings, schools (public and private), and all childcare facilities**
- **Retail stores**
- **Retail food stores, food establishments, and bars until the customer is seated**
 - Food service establishment customers may only remove face coverings when seated.
- **Fitness centers/health clubs, dance studios, and all recreational facilities**
- **Houses of worship**
- **Personal service establishments: barber shops, hair and nail salons allowing for temporary removal during service**

This mandate applies to all workers, customers, and visitors. The mandate will be reviewed by the Board of Health at each subsequent regular meeting. If no action is taken by the BOH to rescind it, this mandate will remain in effect.

All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must:

- Wear a face covering or mask that covers your nose and mouth
- Maintain a 6 feet social distance from others who don't live with you
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces
- Wash hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available
- Get tested if you have been exposed to or have symptoms associated with COVID-19

When possible, wear more protective masks, which are now readily available for the general public, such as N95, FFP2, KN95 and KF94 masks, or surgical/examination masks under cloth covering, or a second mask, or a single surgical/examination mask.

Masks remain mandatory for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, and buses), in healthcare facilities and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings, as directed by the Governor and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

All entry doors of establishments open to the public must post a notice requiring that face masks must be worn inside the establishment. Establishment staff must supervise and enforce this requirement. If an individual refuses to wear a mask or face covering for non-medical reasons, a business may decline entry to the individual.

The Lancaster Board of Health and authorized agents pursuant to MGL chapter 111, § 30, are authorized to enforce this mandate and if necessary, may do so with the assistance of the Lancaster Police and other designees appointed by the Town Administrator. Violations of this mandate may be punished by a civil fine, if after a verbal education and written warning, of up to \$300 per violation in the manner provided for non-criminal disposition of violations of Board Health Regulations by MGL Chapter 40, § 21D.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates>