



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN of CHARLEMONT

BOARD OF HEALTH

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

WHEREAS, the Omicron variants are now accounting for approximately 85% 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 [variants], vaccine effectiveness, and current vaccine coverage, layered prevention strategies, such as wearing masks, are needed to reduce the transmission of this variant.”

NOW, THEREFORE, commencing on January 13, 2022 at 12:01 a.m., the following Order **MUST** be implemented at all times at all public indoor spaces in the Town of Charlemont.

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 two (2) years old, unless unable to for medical reasons.

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 work space.
2. Customers of and visitors to public indoor spaces in the Town of Charlemont must always wear masks or other face coverings while on the premises of the business, unless actively eating or drinking in a restaurant or bar.
3. 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.

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. January 13, 2022

Signed under the pains and penalty of perjury,



1-11-2022

Randy Crochier, As Agent to the Charlemont Board of Health