



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN of BUCKLAND

BOARD OF HEALTH

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

WHEREAS, the Delta variants are now accounting for the overwhelming 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 wearing masks, are needed to reduce the transmission of this variant."

NOW, THEREFORE, commencing on **September 9, 2021** at 12:01 a.m., the following Order **MUST** be implemented at all times at all public indoor spaces in the Town of Buckland.

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, retail establishments, offices, indoor performance and event venues, hotels and motels, gyms, fitness clubs, salons, places of worship.

Section 3 Order:

Masks are required in all public indoor spaces as well as private indoor spaces open to the public, including but not limited to private clubs, regardless of vaccination status, for those over the age of five (5) years old. Exceptions to this requirement are permitted for those that the wearing of a mask is contraindicated for medical reasons.

1. Employees of public indoor space or private spaces open to the public in the Town of Buckland must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the public indoor space or private indoor space open to the public, unless alone in their personal work space.
2. Customers of and visitors to public indoor spaces or private spaces open to the public in the Town of Buckland must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the public indoor space or private indoor space open to the public, unless seated in a restaurant or bar.
3. Employees in office spaces in the Town of Buckland 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 or private indoor space open to the public 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. **September 9, 2021** and shall remain in effect until rescinded or modified by the Board of Health.

The Board will consider changing this Mandate to a Recommendation if a sustained trend towards a risk level ranking of "Substantial" or lower, for Franklin County, MA, is noted per the Center for Disease Control (CDC)'s "Level of Community Transmission" metric for Community Transmission in US by County (https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view|Massachusetts|25011|Risk|community_transmission_level)

NAME  9/2/21

NAME Margaret Hunt 9/2/21

NAME  9/3/21

Board of Health Members

Date