

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

JAN. 26, 2021

Town Clerk's Position_ Resignation:

I accepted, with so much regret, the resignation of Town Clerk Elizabeth Cerone on Monday, yesterday.

As you know Elizabeth was elected into office last June, filling the vacancy left by retiring Clerk Janice Purington. Elizabeth served the Town exceptionally well while in office and navigated us through an unprecedented presidential election like a seasoned Clerk. She also presided over the Annual Town Meeting and a Special Town Meeting, both held outside in pandemic conditions. She truly accomplished so much in such a short time. But I have discussed her decision several times and explored all the options. This is, unfortunately, her decision.

Chapter 41, Sec. 14 provides guidance for this situation. The Select Board has the power to appoint a temporary clerk until a permanent clerk can be voted into office at the May Annual Town Election.

It would be my recommendation that we advertise for the position, using a very short window for interested applicants. Because there is not restriction that an interim Town Clerk has to be from Buckland it seems wise to cast the net wide enough to see if there is anyone with any experience to get us through until May. The interim Town Clerk will be responsible for running that election as well as handling any day-to-day responsibilities in the Clerk's office. If we begin advertising as soon as tomorrow, we could plan to interview / appoint at your next meeting, Feb. 9th.

Elizabeth will work through the Special Town Meeting on the 13th and certify those results but those will be her last days in the office. We will need someone in the office immediately as the town election nomination papers will be available starting Feb. 17th.

COVID-19 Governor's Order 55:

The Covid-19 Task Force has developed a letter of warning that will be used to address the few instances we are still seeing of residents not wearing face coverings. These instances are primarily at the transfer station but the letter is designed to be applicable to anywhere in the Town of Buckland.

Showtime Filming Update:

The Showtime crew has committed to filming the 1st two weeks of April in Buckland and in Shelburne. The production crew has been assembling in Town every few weeks and using the 2nd floor of the Town Hall as their hub / warming station / lunch room. They have been incredibly gracious guests, setting up and breaking down the tables with

each use and sanitizing the space after. They even take home their own trash. While they are outside they practice social distancing and wear face coverings. You can tell the safety measures are important to them. We are, at this time, collecting \$500 per use of the building. This money will be deposited into the general fund until a Special Revenue (revolving) Account can be created at the Annual Town Meeting. Those funds will then be available to pay expenses or make improvements to public spaces used during the filming.

Low Income Community Solar:

Colonial Power Group, the company we are currently working with to offer the community electricity aggregation program, is considering how to offer Low-Income Community Solar in connection with the current aggregation program. The program was developed by Colonial to further enhance the Town's renewable energy goals and would deliver the benefits to the residential assistance customers participating in the Town's municipal aggregation program. Colonial will set up a Zoom call with the communities that are interested in further exploring the concept of Low-Income Community Solar for municipal aggregation. I plan to participate.

Special Town Meeting Voter Registration:

Voter Registration for the February 13, 2021 Special Town Meeting will be held on February 3, 2021. You must be a registered voter to vote at this meeting. Hours for Voter Registration are 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. in the Town Clerk's office. Please wear a mask and adhere to social distancing.

Elizabeth Cerone
57 Elm St.
Buckland, MA 01338
413.522.6565
elizabethcerone@yahoo.com

January 11, 2021

Town of Buckland
17 State St.
Buckland, MA 01338

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to inform you that I am resigning from my position as Town Clerk for the Town of Buckland, effective February 15, 2021.

I appreciate the time that I have had in this role and the opportunities that have allowed me to grow professionally and personally in this position. However, due to reasons regarding my health, I must step down as Town Clerk. I am grateful for the support that has been provided to me during my service.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Cerone".

Elizabeth Cerone

TOWN OF BUCKLAND
MASSACHUSETTS



Date: _____

Re: Governor's COVID-19 Order #55

To:

It has come to the attention of the Buckland Board of Health and the Buckland Police Dept that on [date] at or around [time], at [location], you were observed not in compliance with the Governor's Order #55 which requires all persons to wear face-coverings in all public places, **even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others.**

The Buckland Board of Health and the Buckland Police Department are authorized to enforce this order. Violation of this order may result in a civil fine up to \$300.00 per violation.

The intention of this notice is to educate you about Order #55 and advise you of the consequences of non-compliance. This notice shall be considered a warning. Future non-compliance may result in a fine. We further ask that you remain in compliance when on other Town Property or in a public space.

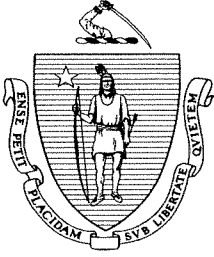
For your convenience we have enclosed a copy of the Governor's Order #55 as well as the Board of Health's Transfer Station Covid-19 protocols.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Buckland Board of Health & Buckland Police Department

Part I	ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT
Title VII	CITIES, TOWNS AND DISTRICTS
Chapter 41	OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF CITIES, TOWNS AND DISTRICTS
Section 14	TEMPORARY CLERK

Section 14. If the office of city clerk is vacant, or if a city clerk is unable to perform the duties required by chapters fifty to fifty-six, inclusive, the mayor shall appoint a temporary clerk to perform such duties. If at a town meeting the office of town clerk is vacant, or if the town clerk is absent, the meeting shall elect by ballot a temporary clerk. The selectmen, or in their absence three persons chosen at the meeting in such manner as the voters present shall determine, shall receive and count the votes and declare the election of such clerk. If in case of a vacancy other duties than those required of a town clerk at a town meeting are to be performed, or if he is unable to perform such duties, the selectmen may in writing under their hands appoint a clerk for the performance thereof, who shall be sworn and shall, in the performance of such duties, have the same powers and be subject to the same requirements and penalties as the town clerk, and he shall immediately make a record of his election or appointment. A temporary clerk appointed under this section shall not be required to be a resident nor a registered voter of the city or town.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

REVISED ORDER REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC PLACES

COVID-19 Order No. 55

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”);

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, the Federal Centers for Disease Control (the “CDC”) have determined that COVID-19 is spread mainly by person-to-person contact and that the best means of slowing the spread of the virus is through practicing social distancing and by minimizing personal contact with large groups and environments where the virus may be transmitted;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health continues to urge all residents of the Commonwealth to limit activities outside of the home and to practice social distancing at all times to limit the spread of this highly contagious and potentially deadly virus;

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that it is possible for an infected individual to transmit COVID-19 even when the individual does not exhibit symptoms of the virus;

WHEREAS, the CDC and the Department of Public Health have advised individuals to wear cloth face coverings when they are outside of the home in order to prevent transmission of this highly contagious virus;

WHEREAS, on May 1st, 2020, I issued COVID-19 Order No. 31, which required face coverings to be worn in public settings where social distancing is not possible, and at all times in retail stores and on public transportation;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Department of Public Health have found increasing evidence that face coverings help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has seen an increase in cases since its lowest point in July, and there has been a steep increase in cases during the month of October. On September 26th, the 7-day daily average of new confirmed cases was 385, whereas on October 31st, the 7-day daily average of new confirmed cases was 1,214;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's COVID-19-related hospitalizations and COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) census has more than doubled over the past 2 months. On August 31, the number of individuals in the hospital with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 was 290, whereas on November 1, the number of individuals in the hospital with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 was 613. The COVID-19 ICU census was 47 on September 9, 2020, whereas on November 1, the COVID-19 ICU census was 113, with 55 individuals intubated. As of November 1, 67% of hospital beds were full and during the month of October, a number of hospitals reported using surge capacity.

WHEREAS, left unchecked, the current COVID-19 case growth poses a risk to the Commonwealth's healthcare system, and intervention is warranted to moderate case growth and preserve hospital capacity; and

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise any and all authority over persons and property necessary or expedient for meeting a state of emergency, including but not limited to authority over assemblages and pedestrian travel in order to protect the health and safety of persons; transportation or travel; regulation of the sale of articles of food and household articles; and the policing, protection, and preservation of public and private property;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby Order the following:

- 1. Requirement to Wear a Face Covering:** Except as provided in Section 2, all persons in Massachusetts over the age of 5 years old are required to wear a mask or cloth face covering over their mouth and nose when in a public location, whether indoors and outdoors. Masks or face coverings are encouraged but not required for children between the ages of 2 and 5.

Public locations include any place open to the public including, without limitation, grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail stores; public transportation, taxis, livery, and other ride-sharing vehicles; public streets and ways; and any location that hosts indoor or outdoor

events or performances. Masks or cloth face coverings are also required when in a carpool with non-household members.

All persons are strongly discouraged from using medical-grade masks to meet the requirements of this Order, as medical-grade masks should be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.

If a customer refuses to wear a mask or cloth face covering for non-medical reasons, the operator of a facility or business may decline entry to the individual.

2. **Exceptions:** The face coverings requirement in Section 1 shall not apply in the following circumstances:
 - a. Where a person is unable to wear a mask or cloth face covering due to a medical or disabling condition; provided that a person who declines to wear a mask or cloth face covering because of a medical or disabling condition shall not be required to produce documentation verifying the condition, except as provided in Section 3;
 - b. Where a face covering would impede communication by or with a person who has a hearing impairment or other disability;
 - c. When a person is inside a personal vehicle, alone or with other household members only;
 - d. Where applicable sector-specific COVID-19 safety rules issued by the Department of Public Health, the Department of Labor Standards, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Early Education and Care or by any other agency authorized by Executive Order to issue such rules permit the removal of face coverings in specific circumstances, such as while eating and drinking in restaurants, receiving dental care, or swimming; and
 - e. In circumstances or for other populations that the Commissioner of Public Health may exempt in writing from the terms of this Order

3. **Places of Employment and Schools:** Where an employee or other worker who is required to wear a face covering pursuant to this Order or any other applicable rule requests an accommodation so as not to have to wear a face covering at the workplace due to a medical or disabling condition, an employer may require documentation to verify the condition. If a student is unable to wear a face covering because of a medical or disabling condition and will be participating in in-person learning, the school may likewise require documentation to verify the condition.

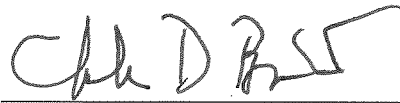
4. **Enforcement:** The Department of Public Health, Local Boards of Health, and authorized agents pursuant to G. L. c. 111, § 30, are authorized to enforce this Order and, if necessary, may do so with the assistance of State or municipal police. The MBTA Transit Police are authorized to enforce this Order on the MBTA bus, rail and transit system. Violation of the terms of this Order or Department of Public Health Guidance may result in a civil fine of up

to \$300 per violation, in the manner provided for non-criminal disposition of violations of municipal by-law, ordinance, rule, or regulation pursuant to G. L. c. 40, § 21D.

5. **Guidance:** The Commissioner of Public Health is directed to issue guidance, subject to my approval, to implement the terms of this Order.
6. **Effective Date:** This Order is effective at 12:01 AM on November 6, 2020, and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the state of emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

COVID-19 Order No. 31 is hereby rescinded effective 12:01 AM on November 6, 2020.

Given in Boston at 12:00 AM/PM this 2nd day of November, two thousand and twenty



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Buckland Board of Health Transfer Station Protocols for COVID-19

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Buckland has declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Buckland Board of Health has determined that the situation poses a present, reasonable, and imminent danger to public health and the general welfare of the people of Buckland, and recognizes the importance and necessity of maintaining minimum Social Distancing of 6 feet;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Health requires all residents of Buckland to observe the following practices when visiting the Buckland Transfer Station for the purpose of disposing or dropping of trash, garbage, recyclables or other items:

- Only one party at a time may use each of the disposal facilities available. Disposal facilities include:
 - Garbage dumpster
 - Paper/Cardboard dumpster
 - Mixed Recycling dumpster
 - Metals dumpster
 - Hazardous materials shed

A “party” is considered to be a single individual, or more than one individual from the same household.

- Face coverings are required at all times within the boundaries of the Transfer Station, including when inside a vehicle
- Residents must remain in their vehicles, in an orderly queue, while waiting to access the garbage, paper/cardboard, or recycling dumpsters.

- Residents should only advance their vehicle to the next dumpster when the vehicle in front of them has left that dumpster.
- There is to be no leaving the queue to advance to the next dumpster out of turn.
- Residents needing assistance with the disposal of their garbage bags should honk for the attendant and remain in their vehicle while the attendant retrieves bags from the trunk or bed of their vehicle.
- Only one party at a time is allowed on the deck at either the paper/cardboard or mixed recycling dumpsters. If a transfer station attendant is working on the deck of the recycling dumpster, the attendant will maintain at least a 6 foot distance, waiting at the end of the deck farthest from the steps, until the party disposing recyclables has exited the deck.
- Residents will check with the transfer Station attendant for instructions when disposing materials in the Metal dumpster or dropping of items for the Hazardous materials shed.

This order will remain in effect until otherwise rescinded by the Board of Health. This order is enforceable by the Buckland Board of Health & their agent(s) and the Buckland Police Department.

Date: _____

Randy Crochier

As Agent for the Buckland Board of Health
CPHS Health Agent
Franklin Regional Council of Governments