



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE**  
**MAYOR**

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MAYOR AND BOARD OF HEALTH**

**EMERGENCY ORDER REVISING FACE COVERINGS MANDATE**  
**FOR SUMMER MONTHS**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has declared a State of Emergency on March 10, 2020 due to the virus that caused the Coronavirus 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of the City of Somerville has determined that the threat of COVID-19 poses a present, real and imminent danger to public health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Somerville and as such declared a State of Emergency in the City of Somerville on March 15, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety;

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised that the spread of the disease from person to person is caused in part by respiratory droplets produced by infected persons and spread, e.g., via respiration, coughing or sneezing, and that people potentially can spread the disease even before they experience symptoms; and

**WHEREAS**, the incidence of the Covid-19 virus, and deaths related to the illness continues in the City of Somerville and the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, evidence indicates that workers in Essential Services workplaces such as supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants offering take-out food and groceries, and other facilities where the public has general access are especially susceptible to the transmission of the disease; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Surgeon General, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, among other federal and state medical authorities have recommended that individuals wear masks or other suitable facial covering to prevent individuals from infecting others; and

**WHEREAS**, these recommendations observe that covering an individual's nose and mouth can reduce the chance of spreading the virus;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Somerville is a densely populated city, making it difficult to maintain six feet of distance between people at all times in public space;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Somerville Board of Health recognizes additional measures are necessary to prevent or reduce activities that increase the likelihood of the spread of a highly contagious infectious disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and the Board of Health recognize that extreme heat during the summer months makes the wearing of face masks burdensome;

The Mayor and the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL c. 111 §§ 95-105, 310 CMR 11.05, 105 CMR 300.200 and all other authorizing statutes and regulations, acting by and through its agent authorized under MGL c. 111, §30, hereby order:

1. Effective at 12:01 a.m., June 19, 2020 any individual who is age two (2) or older, and not otherwise exempt per CDC guidelines, shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a clean mask or face-covering (e.g. disposable mask, cloth mask, face shield, bandana, scarf) when in or at any location open to the general public including all indoor locations open to the public, outdoor premises of private locations open to the public, and all public outdoor locations (e.g., parks, sidewalks, streets, public squares, paths, all City property). However, individuals outdoors may temporarily remove masks if they are able to maintain a minimum of six feet distance between themselves and others outside their household.
2. Customers at restaurants may take masks off to eat, once seated at a table and have been served.
3. All Essential Businesses, healthcare facilities and any other establishment open to the public must post a notice at entry requiring those entering to wear a face-covering or mask, as described in Paragraph 1.
4. This order is enforceable by a fine of \$300.
5. The previous order mandating face coverings, dated April 26, 2020, is hereby rescinded.

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6. This order shall remain in effect until notice is given that it is no longer necessary, or the Board of Health declares that a Public Health Emergency no longer exists.

Douglas Kress, Director of Health and Human Services  
Acting Agent of the Board of Health

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Date: June 22, 2020