



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR AND BOARD OF HEALTH

ORDER AND REGULATION REVISING FACE COVERINGS MANDATE

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Somerville 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; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially indoors and 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; and

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 breathing in air when close to an infected person who is exhaling small droplets and particles that contain the virus, and that people can spread the disease even before they experience symptoms; and

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

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; and



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 CDC has recently advised on July 27, 2021 as follows: that fully vaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission and that fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated.

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. Except as provided in Paragraph 3, effective at 12:01 a.m., August 20, 2021, 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 indoor public location. For the purposes of this section, public location is defined as any place open to the public, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail stores, public transportation, taxis, livery, and other ride sharing vehicles, and any location, including hotels, motels, event venues, and private clubs that hosts indoor events or performances. If a customer, patron, or attendee refuses to wear a mask or cloth face covering for non-medical reasons, the operator of a facility, business, or event may decline entry to the individual.
2. All 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.
3. Exceptions:
 - 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 paragraph 4; and
 - b. Where a face covering would impede communication by or with a person who has a hearing impairment or other disability; and

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- c. While actively eating or drinking, receiving dental care or other health care, or swimming.
 - d. In circumstances or for other populations that the Director of the Health and Human Services Department exempts in writing from the terms of this Order and Regulation.
4. Where an employee or other worker is required to wear a face covering pursuant to this Order and Regulation 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.
 5. This Order and Regulation is enforceable by a fine of \$300.00, in the manner provided for non-criminal disposition of violations of municipal by-laws, ordinances, rules, or regulations, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, s. 21D and Somerville Code of Ordinances Section 1-11. The Health Department, Inspectional Services Division, and Police Department are authorized to enforce this Order and Regulation.
 6. This Order and Regulation 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.

This 19 day of August, 2021.

Board of Health, by:

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

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Date: August 20, 2021

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