

COVID-19 Public Health Mandate of the Town of Bedford, MA Board of Health

Notice is hereby given that on August 23, 2021, the Bedford Board of Health adopted the following emergency regulation under the provisions of MGL Chapter 111, section 31.

Based upon review of current COVID-19 caseload and testing positivity rates in Middlesex County, and the expanding prevalence of the Delta variant of COVID-19 in the region and across the country, the Board of Health held a meeting on August 23, 2021, and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 111, sections 31 and 104 adopt as a public health mandate, the following indoor mask regulations in the Town of Bedford.

Effective on 12:01am August 27, 2021, face coverings are required for all individuals aged two years and above in all indoor public spaces, houses of worship, private spaces open to the public, or where individuals from different households can gather, except where an individual is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability. This excludes private residences.

1. Food service establishment customers may only remove face coverings when seated.
2. Indoor performance venue customers may only remove face coverings in the actual act of eating and drinking, if permitted in the venue. Indoor performers are required to wear face coverings.
3. Lodging guests and workers are required to wear face coverings when inside hallways and common areas.
4. Fitness Center/Health Club workers, customers, and visitors are required to wear face coverings during fitness activity, including strenuous activity.
5. At Personal Services establishments, including but not limited to barber shops, hair and nail salons, all customers and workers are required to wear face coverings, except for skin or beard care that occurs on the face, the customer may temporarily remove the face covering but must immediately put the face covering back on for the remainder of the visit.
6. Masks remain mandatory for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), in healthcare facilities and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings, as directed by the Governor and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.
7. Residents and employees in multi-unit homes and apartments are required to wear face coverings when inside common hallways and spaces.
8. Members and employees in private membership clubs are required to wear face coverings while indoors.
9. All entry doors of businesses open to the public must be posted – advising customers that face masks must be worn inside the establishment. If a customer refuses to wear a mask or face covering for non-medical reasons, a business may decline entry to the individual.
10. All Bedford schools, public and private, are required to follow the [American Academy of Pediatrics guidance](#) to require face coverings while indoors.

To the extent necessary, this Order shall be enforced by Bedford Health Department staff as agents to the Board of Health.

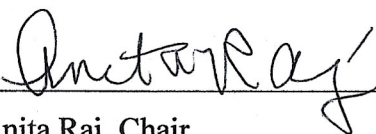
Violations of this Regulation may be punished by a civil fine, if after a verbal education and written warning, of up to \$300 per violation in the manner provided for non-criminal disposition of violations of Board Health Regulations by MGL Chapter 40, § 21D.

This mandate will be in effect whenever the [Level of Community Transmission](#) data from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for Middlesex County is categorized as either “Substantial” or “High” over a consecutive two-week period.

This mandate will no longer be in effect whenever the [Level of Community Transmission](#) data from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for Middlesex County is categorized as either “Low” or “Moderate” over a consecutive two-week period

This mandate will be reviewed by the Board of Health at each subsequent regular meeting. If no action is taken by the BOH to rescind it, this Regulation will remain in effect.

Approved by a 4-1 vote of the Board of Health on August 23, 2021



Anita Raj, Chair
Bedford, MA Board of Health