



TOWN OF
WATERTOWN
BOARD OF HEALTH

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
www.watertown-ma.gov

John Straus MD
Barbara Beck PhD
Richard Arnold FNP BC

Board Of Health Order on Wearing Face Coverings Indoors August 25, 2021

The Watertown Board of Health has issued an Order mandating the wearing of face coverings indoors throughout Watertown. Cases of Covid -19 have been increasing in the unvaccinated and vaccinated populations, especially the Delta variant that spreads rapidly and has significant health effects. Also on July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control issued an advisory for vaccinated persons in areas of substantial and high transmission to wear a mask while indoors. Further Middlesex County has been shown to have the Highest level of risk designated by the CDC.

A mask mandate is an immediate intervention to prevent the spread of disease within spaces open to the public.

Therefore, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 111 sections 31 and 122, the Watertown Board of Health has adopted a public health mandate effective August 25, 2021, requiring face coverings for all persons at all times when inside public spaces or private spaces open to the public.

This mandate applies to individuals aged five years and over except where an individual is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability. If a customer refuses to wear a mask or cloth face covering for non-medical reasons, a business may decline entry to the individual

- Food service establishment customers may only remove face coverings when seated.
- Performance venue customers may only remove face coverings in the actual act of eating and drinking.
- Indoor performers are required to wear face coverings, except where they are able to maintain a minimum of 25 feet of distance from members of the audience. Indoor bar and dance venue customers may only remove face coverings when seated at tables or seated at a bar. Patrons standing or ordering at the bar must be masked. Guests must be masked on indoor dance floors.
- Lodging guests and workers are required to wear face coverings when inside hallways and common areas.
- Residents, visitors and employees in multi-unit homes and apartments are required to wear face coverings when inside common hallways and spaces.
- Members, visitors, and employees in private membership clubs are required to wear face coverings while indoors.
- People in Houses of worship are required to wear face coverings.
- Fitness Centers/Health Clubs workers, customers, and visitors are required to wear face coverings during fitness activity, including strenuous activity.

- 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.
- 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.
- All businesses open to the public must post signage (i.e., entry ways, points of service, etc.) advising customers that facemask must be maintained inside the establishment. Establishment staff must supervise and enforce this requirement.

This order will take effect from 12:01 AM on August 25, 2021 and shall remain in place and effective until such time as the Order is modified or rescinded, based up further CDC guidance, by the Watertown Board of Health.

Questions regarding the mask mandate should be directed to the Watertown Health Department at 617-972-6446.