



TOWN OF WESTFORD
BOARD OF HEALTH

TOWN HALL (Second Floor)
55 Main Street
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01886
(978) 692-5509 Fax (978) 399-2558

Statement from the Westford Board of Health on 9/29/2021:

Effective At 12:01A on Friday Oct 1st, 2021, Face coverings that cover the nose and face are required for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, aged 2 years and above in all public indoor spaces-please refer to the regulations for further information. (See attached)

Per the CDC in mid-August 2021, everyone in Massachusetts should now be wearing a mask in public indoor spaces due to the state's increased COVID-19 transmission rates. (<https://www.boston.com/news/coronavirus/2021/08/15/cdc-guidelines-every-massachusetts-wear-masks-indoors/>) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>)

As of August 30th, 2021, 45 towns implemented a mask mandate: (<https://www.wbur.org/news/2021/08/30/mask-mandates-massachusetts>) Since this late August posting, Littleton, MA has also mandated masks in public indoor spaces: (<https://www.littletonma.org/home/urgent-alerts/littleton-board-health-issues-covid-19-public-health-mask-mandate>;

The town of Westford has a 74% vaccination rate per the update on the Westford Health Department website (<https://westfordma.gov/1277/COVID-19>). However, this does not take into account the number of breakthrough cases that have occurred. Although the most important mitigating factor to combating COVID 19 is vaccination, there have been many breakthroughs. Over the past week, Massachusetts has reported more than 4,500 breakthrough cases: (<https://www.nbcboston.com/news/coronavirus/4378-new-breakthrough-cases-in-mass-37-more-deaths-in-vaccinated-people/2503185/>) Westford has seen an increase in cases among the unvaccinated and the vaccinated over the past month. Since August 15th, there have been 185 residents in Westford who tested positive for COVID. Of this number, over 98 of them had been vaccinated.

With the information shared above, mandating masks in public spaces will protect both the vaccinated and unvaccinated Westford residents and all of those who work in Westford or visit our community. This mandate will be reviewed at every subsequent BOH meeting.