

WEST HARTFORD REACHES 'RED ZONE' THRESHOLD AND IMPLEMENTS LOCAL MANDATORY UNIVERSAL MASK MANDATE

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. (August 20, 2021) – The Town of West Hartford has implemented a local universal indoor mask mandate, effective at noon on August 20, 2021. The universal mask mandate shall remain in effect until further notice.

On August 13, Town officials announced that if West Hartford reached the high community transmission “red zone” – defined by the State Department of Public Health as an average daily case rate of 15 or more per 100,000 people – the Town would require all individuals regardless of their vaccination status to wear a mask when indoors.

The West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District reported today that West Hartford has now exceeded that threshold with 16.7 cases per 100,000 population.

The Delta variant is highly contagious, necessitating extra measures to slow transmission and to protect the most vulnerable.

Under Governor Lamont’s Executive Order No. 13A order issued on August 5, 2021, the Town Manager – as the Town’s chief executive officer – has the sole authority to issue a municipal indoor mask mandate in West Hartford. Town Manager Matt Hart said the decision to issue the mask mandate was made in consultation with public health and safety officials.

West Hartford’s universal indoor mask mandate will require all persons to wear a mask in any public indoor place. This does not apply to residential dwellings, however residents are strongly advised that they should still mask-up anytime they are indoors with persons who are not part of their own household. The mandate also exempts persons unable to wear a mask for medical reasons – including children under the age of two – and persons who are eating or drinking.

West Hartford joins more than a dozen other state municipalities in making masks mandatory. All of Connecticut’s counties are now in the ‘red zone.’ Under the Governor’s executive order, the Town has the authority to enforce the mandate, including through the issuance of citations.

“Our approach has been, and continues to be, education first, enforcement second. We have reached out to our community over the past few weeks to alert them of the possibility of a local indoor mask mandate. We will continue to take proactive steps to make sure that our businesses, restaurants, places of worship, schools, grocery stores, and long-term care facilities are aware of this new requirement,” said Hart.

“We all want to keep our communities safe while keeping schools, towns, and businesses open,” said Mayor Shari Cantor. “Please, if you have not been vaccinated, do so to protect yourself, your family and your community. Vaccines are safe, free and easier than ever to obtain.”

A copy of the Town Manager’s executive order requiring universal indoor masking may be [found here](#).

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