



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**City of Medford
BOARD OF HEALTH**

**COVID-19 EMERGENCY ORDER FOR WEARING OF MASKS IN PUBLIC INDOOR SPACES IN THE CITY OF
MEDFORD**

WHEREAS, the City of Medford continues to manage the COVID-19 public health emergency and according to the CDC, the Omicron variant are now accounting for 73% of new U.S. positive cases and

WHEREAS, these emerging variants are almost twice as contagious as previous variants, may cause severe illness and can be transmitted even by individuals who are vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, we know that masks slow or prevent transmission of all COVID-19 variants so far; and

WHEREAS, as we see cases rise in surrounding Massachusetts counties and communities including ours, following this season of summer travel and gatherings, we are committed to preventing and/or limiting transmission, keeping our numbers as low as possible, and preventing our most vulnerable from severe illness with a new mask mandate; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, “Given what we know about the new variant, vaccine effectiveness, and current vaccine coverage, layered prevention strategies, such as wearing masks, are needed to reduce the transmission of this variant.” The CDC has noted that masks are recommended in areas with substantial or high transmission for those who are either vaccinated or unvaccinated. [See https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html)

Whereas, City of Medford officials, including the Mayor, the Health Director and the Board of Health, have evaluated the ongoing public health emergency and determined that further temporary measures are necessary to prevent the spread and resurgence of COVID-19 in the City. Accordingly, the intent of this Order is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible. All provisions of this Order should be interpreted to effectuate this intent to protect the public health in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, commencing on December 22, 2021, at 12:01 a.m., the following Order **MUST** be implemented at all times at all public indoor spaces in the City of Medford.

Section 1 Authority:

This order is promulgated under the authority granted to the Board of Health under Massachusetts General Laws, , in accordance with G.L. c.111, §§ 31 and 122, 310 CMR 11.05, 105 CMR 300.200 and any other authorizing statutes and regulations, we, the Board of Health, in order to take additional measures

to protect the public health during the COVID-19 public health emergency in light of current conditions, including an ongoing surge in COVID-19 cases.

Section 2 Definitions:

Public Indoor Spaces - The term “public indoor spaces” shall include all places into which members of the public are invited or otherwise allowed to enter a building or structure to interact with any persons in order to or transact any public or private business. This includes, but is not limited to, restaurants, bars, offices, social clubs, grocery stores, pharmacies and other retail establishments, indoor performance and event venues, hotels, gyms, fitness clubs, barber shops, hair and nail salons, dance studios and places of worship.

Section 3 Order:

Except as specified in Section 4, masks are required in all indoor public places as well as private places open to the public except where an individual is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability, regardless of vaccination status for those over the age of five (5) years old.

1. Employees of public indoor spaces must wear masks at all times while on the premises of the business, unless alone in their personal workspace.
2. Customers of public indoor spaces in the City of Medford must wear at all times while on the premises of the business.
3. This Order shall not apply to informal gatherings at private residences in which no compensation for use of the property is paid to the owner.

Section 4 Exemptions:

In all food service establishments, customers may only remove face coverings when seated. Patrons standing at bars or dancing on dance floors must wear a mask.

Indoor performance venue customers may only remove face coverings in the actual act of eating and drinking, if permitted in the venue.

Lodging guests and workers are required to wear face coverings when inside hallways and all common areas.

Employees in office spaces which are enclosed with a barrier between the public and employees are exempt from wearing a mask when not interacting with the public.

Section 5 Enforcement:

The person or entity in control of a public indoor space shall have the obligation to enforce the requirements of the mask mandate set forth in this Order. All entry doors of businesses open to the public must post signage stating that face masks must be worn inside the establishment **except for a medical exemption.**

Section 6 Effective:

This regulation 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.

This order is in effect at 12:01 a.m. December 22, 2021

Medford Board of Health Members

Date

David S. Pladziewicz M.D. _____

David D. Menon M.D. _____

Kathleen M. Charbonnier R.N. _____

