



**TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
60 CENTER SQUARE
EAST LONGMEADOW, MA 01028
(413) 525-5400 X 1103**

Board of Health

Christine Johnston, MPH, Chair
Dr. Kathryn Jobbins, DO, MS, FACP, Vice Chair
Rebecca Torcia, RNBSN, Secretary

January 7, 2022

East Longmeadow Issues Mask Advisory

On January 6, 2022, the East Longmeadow Board of Health voted unanimously to rescind the November 3, 2021 mask advisory and issue a new mask advisory. This new advisory is consistent with the [mask advisory](#) issued by Governor Baker on December 21, 2021.

In response to the spread of the Delta variant and the emerging Omicron variant, the East Longmeadow Board of Health now advises that all residents, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask or face covering when indoors (and not in your own home). The Board of Health particularly urges this recommendation if you have a weakened immune system, or if you are at increased risk for severe disease because of your age or an underlying medical condition, or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated.

All people in Massachusetts (regardless of vaccination status) are required to continue wearing face coverings in certain settings, including transportation and health care facilities. Please see www.mass.gov/maskrules for a complete list of venues where face coverings have remained mandatory since May 29, 2021.

For individuals who are not fully vaccinated, it is especially important that you wear a face covering or mask any time you are indoors and not in your own home to reduce the chance that you may spread COVID-19 to other people. People who show no symptoms of illness may still be able to spread COVID-19.

An individual is fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. However, if a fully vaccinated individual becomes symptomatic, they should be tested and wear a mask until receiving test results.

When you wear a face covering or cloth mask, it should:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face,
- Be secured with ties or ear loops,
- Include multiple layers of fabric,
- Allow for breathing without restriction, and
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

For more information, please refer to the CDC at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>.

The Board of Health will continue to review COVID-19 data, transmission, and vaccination rates for the Town of East Longmeadow and take appropriate action if needed.

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