



**TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
60 CENTER SQUARE
EAST LONGMEADOW, MA 01028**

Board of Health

Christine Johnston, MPH, Chair

Dr. Kathryn Jobbins, DO, MS, FACP, Vice Chair

Rebecca Torcia, RNBSN, Secretary

COVID-19 MANDATORY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR WEARING OF MASKS OR OTHER FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC INDOOR SPACES IN THE TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2022, the Town of East Longmeadow saw its largest number of positive COVID-19 cases in any 14-day reporting period over the entire pandemic (659 cases).

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 counties and communities, we are committed to preventing 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 vaccine effectiveness, and current vaccine coverage, layered prevention strategies, such as wearing masks, are needed to reduce transmission.

NOW, THEREFORE, commencing on January 14, 2022 at 12:01 a.m., the following Policies and Procedures **MUST** be implemented at all times at all public indoor spaces in the Town of East Longmeadow.

Section 1 Authority:

This order is promulgated under the authority granted to the Board of Health under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 111, section 31.

Section 2 Definitions:

Public Indoor Spaces - The term "public indoor spaces" shall include all places in the Town of East Longmeadow 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.

- Includes but not limited to; restaurants, bars, schools, indoor performance and event venues, hotels and motels, gyms, fitness clubs, salons, places of worship

Performers - Those singing and/or playing woodwind or brass instruments

Section 3 Policies and Procedures:

Except as specified in Section 4, masks are required in all indoor public places as well as private places open to the public, regardless of vaccination status for those over the age of 5 years old.

1. Employees of public indoor spaces in the Town of East Longmeadow must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the business unless in a private office or space.
2. Customers of public indoor spaces in the Town of East Longmeadow must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the business.
3. In a food service establishment, masks must be worn anytime the customer is not seated.
4. All mask or face coverings worn in accordance with this Order shall conform to the following:
 - a. Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; and
 - b. Be secured with ties or ear loops; and
 - c. Include multiple layers of fabric; and

- d. Allow for breathing without restriction; and
- e. Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape; and
- f. May be removed for eating, drinking; where allowed; and
- g. Disposable surgical/procedural masks are permitted

Section 3 Exemptions:

Nothing in this order is intended to encourage residents to act as an enforcement authority for the Town of East Longmeadow. Residents should not take it upon themselves to approach people in violation of this order. Residents are urged to focus solely on their personal compliance with this order.

1. Nothing in this order shall be construed to require a mask to be worn by children under age five (5) or children who frequently compromise mask integrity with frequent manipulations or removals, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance or anyone who cannot wear a mask for other underlying health and safety reasons
2. Performers who are singing, playing brass or wind instruments, or are presenting or speaking at an event, are not required to wear face coverings but must adhere to social distancing of at least 10 feet from any member of the public when performing indoors.

Section 4 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 these policies and procedures.

Nothing in this order is intended to encourage residents to act as an enforcement authority for the Town of East Longmeadow. ***Residents should not take it upon themselves to approach people in violation of this order. Residents are urged to focus solely on their personal compliance with this order.***

Section 5 Effective:

This order is in effect at 12:01 a.m. on January 14, 2022 and will remain in effect until February 28, 2022 unless otherwise amended or rescinded.

Christine Johnston, MPH
Board of Health Chair

Dr. Kathryn Jobbins, DO, MS, FACP
Board of Health Vice Chair

Rebecca Torcia, RNBSN
Board of Health Secretary