



PITTSFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH

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PITTSFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH
70 ALLEN ST. PITTSFIELD, MA 01201

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVE REGARDING THE WEARING OF MASKS, OTHER FACE COVERING AND RELATED SAFETY STANDARDS

Effective: November 8, 2021

WHEREAS, the Delta variants are now accounting for approximately 99% of positive cases in Massachusetts (source <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions>) and cases have risen in the City of Pittsfield; and

WHEREAS, these variants are almost twice as contagious as previous variants; 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 communities, we are committed to preventing transmission, keeping our numbers as low as possible, keeping businesses and schools open, and preventing our most vulnerable from severe illness; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC “Given what we know about the Delta Variant, vaccine effectiveness, and current vaccine coverage, layered prevention strategies, such as wearing masks, are needed to reduce the transmission of this variant”, and

WHEREAS, children under the age of 12, i.e., most elementary school students have not yet been fully vaccinated as of November 4, 2021

WHEREAS, household transmission is high with Delta and can infect even vaccinated household members; and

WHEREAS, Boards of Health have authority under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 111, Section 31 may make reasonable rules and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, commencing on November 8, 2021 at 12:01 AM., the following directives are hereby implemented in the City of Pittsfield and shall remain in effect until this Directive is rescinded and/or amended.

1. Appropriate CDC approved masks or face coverings shall be worn in all publicly accessible indoor spaces in the City of Pittsfield, unless seated at a table consuming food or drink. A sign shall be posted at the entrance of all buildings. A copy of the sign can be found at www.cityofpittsfield.org or any other masking requirement sign may be used with similar content
2. Food service establishment employees shall wear a mask or face covering when serving customers, both indoors and outdoors.

3. Masks shall be fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; and be secured with ties or ear loops; and include multiple layers of fabric; and allow for breathing without restriction; and may be removed for eating, drinking where allowed. Disposable surgical/procedural masks, N-95s, elastomeric masks, cloth masks are permitted, Mask with exhale valves are not permitted.

In addition, the City of Pittsfield are encouraging community members to:

1. Get Vaccinated and stay at home if showing signs of symptoms
2. Get tested for COVID-19 if you have new or unexplained symptoms, before and after travelling and/or if you have been exposed.
3. If at risk of exposure, call and schedule a test at 1-855-BMC-LINK
4. More information on COVID-19 can be found at www.cityofpittsfield.org, www.mass.gov and www.cdc.gov

Exemptions:

1. Nothing in this order shall be construed to require a mask to be worn by children under age two(2) 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. Masks may be taken off in restaurants/bars only while seated or drinking.
3. Employees in shared office spaces are not required to mask if social distancing of six feet or more can be maintained.
4. Performers who are singing and/or playing brass or wind instruments, who are performance artists or who 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 and outdoors.

Enforcement

We respectfully request that the person(s) or entity in control of a public indoor or outdoor space will assume the obligation to comply with this public health directive as set forth in the above policies and procedures.

Non-compliance with this directive may escalate the spread of COVID-19, thereby impacting the health and safety of all of us. Non-compliance with this directive, the City of Pittsfield Board of Health under their authority may implement more strict rules and regulations of this directive that may include fines for non-compliance and further action that may include suspension and revocation of permits issued by the Board of Health.

This directive is in effect at 12:01 a.m., November 8, 2021 as voted on by its Pittsfield Board of Health members at their meeting on November 3, 2021

This directive, and its status, will be reviewed monthly at Pittsfield Board of Health meetings.