

Uxbridge Mask Mandate

Notice is hereby given that on January 12, 2022, the Uxbridge Board of Health adopted the following emergency regulation under the provisions of MGL Chapter 111, section 31.

To reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in indoor public settings, the Board of Health requires that everyone, including fully vaccinated people wear masks in indoor public settings across Uxbridge. All businesses must display a clearly visible sign upon entry stating that masks are required.

This mandate is based upon review of current COVID-19 caseload and testing positivity and new incidence case rates in Uxbridge and in Worcester County, and the expanding prevalence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the region and across the country, which has overwhelmed the capacity of local hospitals. Indoor settings create an environment for the highly transmissible Omicron variant to be spread.

For purposes of this order, masks shall include surgical masks, N-95 respirators, and cloth masks (single layer cloth masks alone are the least effective and we ask that you avoid those). Masks are to be worn to completely cover a person's nose and mouth. It is clear that mask wearing is most effective in combination with non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as hand hygiene and social distancing.

Exemptions to mask requirements

- Persons younger than two years old. Very young children must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.
- Persons who are communicating with a hearing-impaired person, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- Persons who are actively eating or drinking in an area that is approved for eating or drinking

This regulation shall be applied in a manner consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, Massachusetts State Laws, and any other applicable provision of law.

Effective Date

Effective at 12:01 am on Saturday, January 15, 2022, although all people and businesses should try to implement this as soon as possible. This order is in effect until the next Board of Health meeting on February 2, 2022, and may be extended to a further date if the Board deems it necessary.

The Board will look at parameters such as local hospitalization rates, testing positivity rates, or any other parameter which seem applicable at that time.