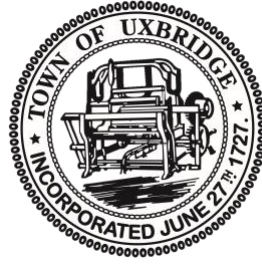


*Michael Morrisette, Chairman
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**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
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PRESS RELEASE

Information regarding Board of Health Order Requiring Use of Facial Coverings or Masks in Public Places

4/28/2020

Contact: Uxbridge Board of Health office 508-278-8600 x 8 or boh@uxbridge-ma.gov

UXBRIDGE – On April 23, by its authority to prevent the spread of infectious diseases¹, the Uxbridge Board of Health passed an order requiring all persons in public places to wear face coverings, effective as of 6:00 AM on April 27th. This order passed by unanimous vote (3,0,0) at a Board of Health Public Meeting which was duly posted per Open Meeting law and attended by members of the public. This order supplements other measures designed to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, which include staying home, social distancing, limiting the size of gatherings and practicing personal hygiene, and is recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

<https://www.mass.gov/news/advisory-regarding-face-coverings-and-cloth-masks>

There is strong scientific evidence that the COVID-19 virus can be spread by persons who are infected but do not have symptoms. Infected, asymptomatic people who wear facial coverings help to reduce the spread of virus to others, including people who are at high risk for poor health outcomes.

After an earlier advisory issued by the Uxbridge Board of Health, facial covering use among customers in local essential businesses such as grocery stores and pharmacies was widespread but not universal. These businesses depend on their employees remaining healthy to continue serving the public. Exposing employees to large numbers of potentially infected customers puts them at higher risk for COVID-19 than it does customers who visit stores for shorter periods of time. Cases of illness and even death from COVID-19 have been reported among grocery store employees.

While plastic barriers placed between employees and customers help reduce the spread of larger droplets produced when people speak, cough or sneeze, they do very little to stop the spread of

¹ Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 31 sections 122-124

smaller virus-containing particles which may remain suspended in the air for up to three hours. For a visual representation of how speaking produces droplets, see:

https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2007800?query=featured_coronavirus

The Board of Health COVID-19 webpage, with directions about how to make, put on, wear and remove a face mask appropriately may be found here: [Cloth Face Coverings](#). Uxbridge HELPS, a coalition of community service organizations, can provide masks to people who request them by filling out a [Request for Assistance](#).

Board of Health members recognize that for most people, requiring the wearing of a face covering in public places is a simple inconvenience; for others it may be an imposition. The Board's responsibility is to use the best evidence at hand and its collective judgment to protect the health of all residents of our community.

The full text of the facial covering order may be found here: [Face Covering Order](#). The Board of Health's webpage has up-to-date information about this and other measures to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. For questions or comments about this order, please email us at BoH@uxbridge-ma.gov.