

Town of Richmond

Board of Health

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVES REGARDING WEARING OF MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

The highly contagious Delta variant of COVID-19 now accounts for well over 95 percent of all positive cases in Massachusetts. New cases are appearing daily in Berkshire County.

We know without question that masks slow or prevent transmission of all COVID-19 variants and that social distancing can reduce the spread of the virus from one person to the next. We also know from data around the world that immunization is the most important means of protection from COVID-19. In the rare case when there is a breakthrough infection, the severity of the disease is significantly reduced among those individuals who have been fully vaccinated.

Given these facts, the Town of Richmond Board of Health acting under the authority of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 111 Section 31 is issuing the following directives effective as of September 20, 2021.

Regarding Masks or face coverings in public settings indoors and outdoors:

1. Appropriate CDC approved masks or face coverings must be worn at all times by individuals entering all public indoor spaces in the Town of Richmond. Public indoor spaces include but are not limited to Town Hall, the Post Office, churches, the library, medical venues and retail establishments.
2. Masks are not required for individuals seated at a table and consuming food or drink. The tables, however, must be separated 6 or more feet apart.
3. A sign must be posted at the entrance to all indoor public spaces stating that masks are required for entrance.
4. Food service establishment employees must wear a mask or face covering when interacting with customers, both indoors and outdoors.
5. Masks must be worn at all times by office employees who cannot remain 6 feet or more apart from other employees or from the public.
6. Masks are also required at all outdoor public events if the nature of the event does not allow individuals to remain 6 or more feet apart.
7. Masks are not required for children under the age of two. Exceptions also can be granted for individuals who have a medical condition, certified by a physician, that does not allow them to wear a mask.
8. The Town of Richmond Board of Health will review the above directives on masks each time it meets with a view to amending or cancelling them.

