



Town of Norfolk

Board of Health

1 Liberty Lane
Norfolk, MA 02056

May 7, 2020

EMERGENCY ORDER REQUIRING FACIAL COVERINGS IN PUBLIC PLACES

The Town of Norfolk Board of Health pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 111 ss. 95-105 and the Board's authority to prevent the spread of infectious disease deems that the following action is necessary to protect the public health.

WHEREAS, Covid-19 is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have advised that the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 is spread from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or just breathes heavily; and

WHEREAS, infected people can spread the disease even before they experience symptoms; and

WHEREAS, workers in essential service workplaces such as grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies, restaurants offering take-out food, the U.S post office, and the other facilities where the public has general access are especially susceptible to the transmission of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the CDC, the U.S. Surgeon General, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, among other federal and state medical authorities, have recommended that individuals wear masks or other suitable facial covering to reduce the spread of the disease and the likelihood that people touch their faces; and

WHEREAS, the State of Emergency declared in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in the Town of Norfolk warrant emergency measures to prevent the spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2020, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued COVID-19 Order No. 31 requiring facial coverings in public places where social distancing is not possible and leaving enforcement of the order principally to the Commonwealth's boards of health,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town of Norfolk Board of Health hereby Orders the following:

1. Any person* in a public place in the Town of Norfolk in which they are unable to maintain a distance of six(6) feet from every other person shall wear a mask or some form of suitable cloth covering over their nose and mouth.

*Children under the age of 2 years should not wear facial coverings or masks. Masks used by children between the age of 2 and the age of 5 are encouraged but should be at the discretion of the child's parent or guardian. Parents and guardians should ensure that the mask fits snugly and does not obstruct a child's ability to breathe.

The use of a mask does not replace important social distancing measures. All individuals must try to maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other people. Clear markings of such distance shall be visible for persons inside or waiting in-line outside facilities supplying essential services.

This order does not apply to persons who

- cannot breathe safely wearing facial covering;
- are unable to wear facial covering due to a behavioral health diagnosis;
- rely on lip-reading to communicate with people;
- require supplemental oxygen to breathe;
- are exercising outdoors and able to keep six(6) feet from others.

For information on how to make a cloth facial covering, go to:

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

2. Every store, workplace, or other facility providing essential services and open to the public is required to place a sign no smaller than 8.5 x 11 inches and clearly visible on all entrances to the facility stating that a mask or other facial covering IS REQUIRED while inside the facility

This Order does not apply to persons riding in a personal vehicle, on their own property, or within their own shelter group, such as family or household members.

ALL PROVISIONS of this emergency order shall be effective beginning Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at noon and shall remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to the Board of Health's judgment, that the Public Health Emergency no longer exists.

So ordered at a meeting of the Norfolk Board of Health on this 7th day of May, 2020.

Norfolk Board of Health

Thomas R. Gilbert, Chair

Frances Sullivan, Clerk

Ilene Segal, Member