

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
BOARD OF HEALTH**

COVID-19 MANDATORY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR WEARING OF MASKS OR OTHER FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC PLACES IN THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

Commencing on April 16, 2020, at 12:01 a.m., the following Policies and Procedures **MUST** be implemented at all times at all businesses providing essential services in the City of Northampton.

On April 3, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control issued an Advisory with regard to the wearing of face coverings when people are unable to maintain safe social distancing. On April 10, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued a similar Advisory regarding the wearing of face coverings in public. The following Policies and Procedures are intended to expand on those Advisories and to provide specific direction for customers and employees of brick and mortar businesses providing essential services in the City of Northampton.

MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED FOR EMPLOYEES OF BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

1. Employees of businesses in the City of Northampton must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the business.
2. All cloth face coverings worn in accordance with this Order shall conform to the following:
 - a. Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; and
 - b. Be secured with ties or ear loops; and
 - c. Include multiple layers of fabric; and
 - d. Allow for breathing without restriction; and
 - e. Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape;
 - f. May be removed for eating, drinking or smoking; where allowed.

MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED FOR CUSTOMERS OF BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

1. All customers of businesses in the City of Northampton must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the business.
2. Face coverings worn by customers in accordance with this Order shall be any cloth that securely covers the customer's nose and mouth, including but not limited to scarves, bandanas, turtlenecks or similar coverings.
3. Nothing in the preceding two paragraphs shall prohibit the removal of face coverings by customers of outdoor table service restaurants as permitted under the Governor Baker's COVID-19 Order No. 55. Face coverings may only be removed by patrons of restaurants when in the act of eating and drinking only.

MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS IN OUTDOOR PUBLIC PLACES IN THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

1. All persons shall wear a mask or face covering at all times while in the following public places:
 - a. Any place within the Central and General Business Districts as designated under the Northampton Zoning Ordinance, with the exception of the Mask Break Zone in Pulaski Park
 - b. Within any and all parks and recreation areas that have been opened to the public.
 - c. On any bike path or multipurpose trail, including but not limited to the MassCentral Rail Trail (Norwottuck section), Rocky Hill Trail, and the New Haven and Northampton Canal Rail Trail (Manhan section).

- d. Any other public place within the City where one cannot reasonably expect to maintain at least six feet of distance from all other persons at all times.
2. Face coverings worn by persons in accordance with this Order shall be any cloth that securely covers the person's nose and mouth, including but not limited to scarves, bandanas, turtlenecks or similar coverings.
3. Nothing in the preceding two paragraphs shall prohibit the removal of face coverings by customers of outdoor table service restaurants as permitted under the Governor Baker's COVID-19 Order No.55. Face coverings may be removed by patrons of restaurants when in the act of eating or drinking only.
4. Nothing in the preceding two paragraphs shall prohibit the removal of face coverings while eating, drinking or smoking where allowed in outdoor public places.

Important Exclusions:

Nothing in this order is intended to encourage residents to act as an enforcement authority for the City of Northampton. Residents should not take it upon themselves to approach people in violation of this order. Residents are urged to focus solely on their personal compliance with this order.

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, 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.

Nothing in this order shall be construed to reduce or eliminate the requirement of maintaining safe distancing.

Effective 12:01 a.m. on April 16, 2020.

Amended May 11, 2020

Amended June 5, 2020

Amended June 10th

Amended September 28, 2020

Amended April 22, 2021

Merridith A O'Leary

Merridith O'Leary, Public Health Director