



Public Health
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**Northampton
Health Department**

For Immediate Release - August 27, 2021

Board of Health Expands Mask Order for the City of Northampton

NORTHAMPTON - On August 26, 2021, the Northampton Board of Health voted unanimously to amend the City of Northampton's mask order that requires the wearing of a mask in public indoor spaces. The amended order requires all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a face covering when in specified indoor and outdoor spaces and circumstances. These include but are not limited to all public-facing indoor spaces, indoor workplaces, common areas of multi-unit buildings, outdoor public events when you cannot socially distance, off-field seating areas for players of outdoor team sports, and food service establishment employees who are serving customers outdoors.

Since the original mask order was issued on August 9, 2021, COVID-19 cases have risen substantially in Northampton, Hampshire County, and the Commonwealth. During this period, the 14-day incident rate of COVID-19 infection in Northampton has increased from 3.9 cases per day per 100,000 people up to 12 cases per day per 100,000 people. This represents a significant increase in the frequency at which COVID-19 is spreading in our community, just in the past few weeks.

The COVID-19 vaccines continue to demonstrate strong protection against severe infection, hospitalization, and death. The Northampton Health Department urges people to get vaccinated if they are eligible. Those who are immunocompromised and have received two doses of either mRNA vaccine are recommended to consult with their provider about obtaining a third dose. Regularly scheduled vaccine clinics are held in Northampton, and third doses are now available to those who are immunocompromised. Details are available at <https://northamptonma.gov/2219/Vaccine-Clinics>.

The full order, including its amendments, is available on the City of Northampton website at <https://www.northamptonma.gov/2104/Covid-19-Information>. For more information, contact Public Health Director Merridith O'Leary at 413-587-1215, or at healthdept@northamptonma.gov

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