



Town of Montague
Office of the Selectboard
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COVID-19 EMERGENCY ORDER: Indoor Mask Requirements

WHEREAS, the so-called 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is again resurgent due to emergence of the so-called Delta Variant and Omicron Variant in Montague, Franklin County, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and,

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control has determined that the proper use of properly fitted and constructed masks by both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons in indoor locations can substantially reduce the incidence of transmission and serious illness; and,

WHEREAS, the Montague Selectboard, in consultation with the Emergency Management Team and Health Director, has observed an extraordinary increase in COVID-19 infection case counts throughout the month of December, including cases among vaccinated individuals; and,

WHEREAS, the Montague Selectboard has determined that immediate action is needed in order to reduce the prevalence of COVID-19 within Montague and surrounding communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Montague Selectboard voted on December 20, 2021 to require that masks be worn in all private and public indoor spaces that are open to the public in order to reduce the prevalence of COVID-19 infections within Montague and surrounding communities; and,

NOW THEREFORE, the Montague Selectboard declares that all persons shall wear a face mask suitable to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in all indoor public spaces and private indoor spaces that are open to the public, except as indicated below:

1. While eating or drinking;
2. While working, other than to prepare food or meals in a room or office that is not open to visitors in which all persons present can maintain a 6-foot distance from other individuals;

3. While engaging in an activity during which it is unsafe or impossible to wear a mask or face covering;
4. Children who are 5 years of age or under;
5. Persons with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing to a dangerous extent, or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
6. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, or communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
7. Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines;
8. Persons engaged in any lawful activity during which wearing a mask or other face covering is prohibited by law.

This order shall be effective beginning Wednesday, December 22, 2021, and remain in effect until March 1, 2022. The order may be further considered, modified, or rescinded by the Montague Selectboard at any future scheduled public meeting.



Richard Kuklewicz, Selectboard Chair

12/20/21

Date



Christopher Boutwell, Vice Chair

12/20/21

Date



Matthew Lord, Secretary

12/20/21

Date