

OFFICE OF THE

BOARD OF HEALTH

13 AYER ROAD, HARVARD, MA 01451

978-456-4100, ext. 328

boh@harvard-ma.gov



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY:
RECOMMENDATION FOR MASK USE & VACCINATION
December 28, 2021

WHEREAS, the Delta and Omicron variants are now accounting for over 99% of positive cases in Massachusetts (source <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions>), and

WHEREAS, these variants are significantly more contagious as previous variants; and

WHEREAS, we know that masks slow or prevent transmission of all COVID-19 variants so far; and

WHEREAS, as we see cases rise in Harvard and surrounding communities, we are committed to preventing transmission, keeping our numbers as low as possible, and protecting our most vulnerable from severe illness; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, "Until we know more about the risk of Omicron, it is important to use all tools available to [protect yourself and others](#)."

NOW, THEREFORE, the Harvard Board of Health reiterates that the Board *strongly* recommends the wearing of masks by Harvard residents and those visiting all indoor public places as well as private places open to the public in Harvard. This applies to those who are over the age of two (2) years old, regardless of vaccination status.

Public Indoor Spaces - The term "public indoor spaces" includes buildings or structures into which members of the public are invited or otherwise allowed to enter a building or structure to interact with any persons in order to or transact any public or private business. This includes but is not limited to retail establishments, restaurants, offices, indoor event venues, gyms, fitness and recreational clubs, and places of worship.

FURTHER, the Harvard Board of Health acknowledges and supports that all Town employees (regardless of vaccination status) and all visitors (regardless of vaccination status) are required to wear masks when inside of public spaces in municipal buildings, effective August 23, 2021.

FURTHER, the Harvard Board of Health encourages and supports any private businesses which choose to adopt similar mask requirements.

FURTHER, the Harvard Board of Health encourages everyone over the age of two wear a properly fitted mask consistent with the CDC's recommendation for use of masks in any public area where social distancing is difficult to maintain, including outdoor spaces.

FURTHER, the Harvard Board of Health strongly recommends that all who are eligible to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine, do so. Those who have not had a booster should get one as soon as eligible.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit: <https://www.harvard-ma.gov/board-health/pages/covid-19-information-0>