

OFFICE OF THE

## BOARD OF HEALTH

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY:  
MASKS IN PUBLIC INDOOR SPACES  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

WHEREAS, the Delta variants are now accounting for approximately 85% of positive cases in Massachusetts (source <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions>), and

WHEREAS, these variants are almost twice as 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 surrounding counties and communities, we are committed to preventing transmission, keeping our numbers as low as possible, and preventing our most vulnerable from severe illness with a new mask mandate; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, "Given what we know about the Delta variant, vaccine effectiveness, and current vaccine coverage, layered prevention strategies, such as wearing masks, are needed to reduce the transmission of this variant."

NOW, THEREFORE, the Harvard Board of Health strongly recommends 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 places 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 strongly recommends that all who are eligible to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine, do so. Those who did not get a second shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine are encouraged to get one as soon as possible.

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