



# NATICK BOARD OF HEALTH

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Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## NEW MASK MANDATE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***When does this mandate go into effect?***

This mandate will go into effect at 12:01am. on Monday, January 17, 2022.

***Where and when do I need to wear a mask or face covering?***

Masks or face coverings will be required by staff and customers over the age of two at all indoor establishments that are open to the public. This includes, but is not limited to: restaurants, retail establishments, houses of worship, gyms and indoor fitness centers, performance spaces and theaters, lodging facilities, personal services establishments. Food service establishment customers may only remove face coverings when seated. This order shall not apply to individuals who are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability.

***Why is the Town instituting a mask mandate now?***

We have seen public health metrics trending in the wrong direction over the past several weeks. This, coupled with the CDC's recommendation for indoor masking in Middlesex County, informs the decision to institute this mandate.

***What if my business is not open to the public?***

This mandate does not apply to offices or businesses that are not open to the public. Private businesses can create their own policies requiring masks if they so choose.

***As a business, what must I do?***

All entry doors of businesses open to the public must post an advisory for employees, customers and visitors that masks must be worn inside the establishment. Business owners are welcome to use the sign created by the Natick Health Department, or they can create their own.

***If I am hosting or attending a private event that is not open to the public, do I need to wear a mask or face covering?***

If your event is held in an indoor space that is open to the public (e.g. a hotel ballroom, social club, convention center, etc.), all attendees must wear masks or face coverings at all times except when actively eating or drinking. This mandate does not apply to events held at private residences or outdoors.

***Are musical and other live performances still allowed at restaurants and other indoor venues?***

Yes! Performers may remove their masks or face coverings while they are performing as long as they maintain at least six feet of distance from the nearest customer or attendee.

***What metrics will the Town use in determining when to update or rescind this mandate?***

This mandate will remain in place until we see a consistent downtrend in the Town's positivity rate.

***How will the mandate be enforced?***

The Natick Health Department agents will continue to work with indoor establishments to educate them on how to comply with the mandate.

***What is the penalty for noncompliance?***

If after a verbal education and written warning is provided and violations persist, a civil fine of up to \$300 will be issued per violation. Natick Health Department agents are authorized to enforce this Order.

***When will this Order be reviewed?***

The Natick Board of Health agreed to review this Order at each subsequent regular meeting. Public-meeting agendas are posted to the Town of Natick's website. If no action is taken by the Board to rescind it, this Regulation will remain in effect.

***Who can I contact for additional questions?***

Any resident or business owner with questions about this Order can contact the Natick Health Department at 508-647-6460.