



Public Health
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Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
BOARD OF HEALTH



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Shelley Reeve, R.N., B.S.N., J.D.
Carol Ahearn, R.N., B.S.N
Roger L. Christian, M.D., Chairperson

January 13, 2022

Dear Superintendent Parks & Westwood School Committee,

On Tuesday January 11, 2022 the Westwood Board of Health voted unanimously to re-enact the face covering mandate for municipal buildings through February 27, 2022. The main driver of this action is the current surge of new COVID-19 cases being reported to the Board of Health due to the highly transmissible Omicron variant. Case counts for cities and towns reported by MA Dept. of Public Health will report this week, that Westwood had 492 new cases in the 2 week reporting period from December 26, 2021 to January 8, 2022. 2407 tests were administered during that timeframe. The percent positivity rate is 20.44% for this cycle. 163 of these 492 cases were among residents under the age of 18. That is approximately 25 % of new cases which does not include the many cases of COVID-19 confirmed by at home rapid antigen tests which go uncounted.

We are clearly in the height of the surge and we are optimistic that the data will soon show we have peaked and rates will begin to decline. The Board of Health recommends that the School Committee keep the face covering policy in place until the Omicron surge has abated and case counts decrease to their pre-Omicron levels. Once this occurs, we will have the opportunity to discuss with public health and medical experts moving on to the endemic phase of COVID-19.

We will continue to monitor the Town's data and reevaluate this position at our next Board of Health meeting.

We continue to be grateful for the unbelievable efforts the COVID-19 team, school administration, staff, students and families have put forth in order to keep our schools open and safe.

Sincerely,

Jared Orsini REHS/RS
Health Director
Westwood Board of Health



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Board of Health Order Requiring Face Coverings in Municipal Buildings

Whereas cases of COVID-19 have been rapidly increasing in the Town of Westwood due to the highly contagious Omicron variant, the Board of Health deems an intervention necessary in order to better protect the health of municipal employees and visitors to municipal buildings.

Pursuant to M.G.L Chapter 111 sections 31 and 122, the Westwood Board of Health adopts a public health mandate effective January 13, 2022 at 12:01AM requiring a face covering be worn over the nose and mouth of any individual who enters any municipal building for any purpose. This requirement is in effect for all individuals regardless of their vaccination status.

This mandate applies to all individuals aged 5 years and older except where an individual is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability. Municipal employees may remove their face covering if they work alone in a private office or are spaced at least six feet apart from others in a shared office space.

This order shall be in place from 12:01 AM on January 13, 2022 until 11:59 PM on February 27, 2022 unless rescinded or modified by the Board of Health.

Any violation of this regulation is punishable by non-criminal disposition as provided by M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 21 D. A written warning shall be issued for the first offense. For two or more violations a fine of up to \$300 per violation per day may be issued.

Fines shall be issued by the Westwood Board of Health or its designated Agents.

January 11, 2022

Roger Christian M.D.
Chairperson
Westwood Board of Health