

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**CITY OF SPRINGFIELD**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**COVID-19 MANDATORY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**  
**FOR WEARING OF MASKS OR OTHER FACE COVERINGS IN**  
**THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Springfield continues to see an alarming increase in positive COVID-19 cases, especially in the younger population. For the week of December 19, 2021, the City of Springfield reported 1,132 cases, with 57% or 643 of the case being under the age of 30. The weekly breakdown of cases over the past five weeks is: Week of December 19, 2021, 1,132; Week of December 12, 2021, 997; Week of December 5, 2021, 783; Week of November 28, 2021, 818; Week of November 21, 2021, 377; and

**WHEREAS**, we have experienced our first reoccurrence of positive Covid-19 cases in City Hall; 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, with travel and gatherings, 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, vaccine effectiveness, and current vaccine coverage, layered prevention strategies, such as wearing masks, are needed to reduce the transmission of this variant.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, commencing immediately, masks or face coverings shall be worn in City Hall and all municipal buildings in the City of Springfield, and effective January 3, 2022 at 12:01 A.M., at all Specified Indoor Spaces in the City of Springfield, and the following Policies and Procedures **MUST** be implemented at all times at all specified spaces in the City of Springfield.

### **Section 1 Authority:**

This order is promulgated under the authority granted to the Board of Health under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 111, and Section 31 as well as Chapter 533 of the Acts of 1980,

### **Section 2 Definitions:**

**Performers** - Those singing and/or playing woodwind or brass instruments, performing artists and those speaking or presenting at events

**Specified Indoor Spaces** - The term “specified indoor spaces” shall include all places in the City of Springfield 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, including all public indoor spaces, and shall include but not be limited to;

- restaurants, bars, indoor performance and event venues, hotels and motels, gyms, fitness clubs, salons, places of worship, as well as indoor workplaces, and common areas of multi-unit buildings

**Team Sport** - Includes any sport, which involves players working together towards a shared objective. A team sport is an activity in which a group of individuals, on the same team, work together to accomplish an ultimate goal.

- Moderate Risk sports and recreational activities are characterized by intermittent close proximity or limited, incidental physical contact between or among participants
- High Risk sports and recreational activities are characterized by a requirement or a substantial likelihood of routine close and/or sustained proximity or deliberate physical contact between or among participants and a high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between or among participants

### **Section 3 Policies and Procedures:**

Except as specified in Section 4, masks or face coverings shall be required, regardless of vaccination status, for those over the age of two years old, as follows.

1. Masks or face coverings shall be worn in all Specified Indoor Spaces in the City of Springfield.
2. Food service establishment employees shall wear a mask or face covering when serving customers, both indoors and outdoors.

3. Masks or face coverings will also be required in outdoor public events, where physical distancing of six (6) feet cannot be maintained. This includes but is not limited to; events held at fairgrounds, and outdoor performance and event venues.
4. Masks or face coverings must be worn in the dugouts, benches, and other common seating areas for outdoor moderate and high-risk contact team sports including but not limited to;
  - Baseball, softball, track and field, volleyball, soccer, running clubs, team swimming, volleyball, dance class, fencing, field hockey, soccer, football, wrestling, rugby, basketball, lacrosse, ice-hockey, competitive cheer, martial arts, ultimate Frisbee, boxing, pair figure skating
5. All mask or face coverings worn in accordance with this Order shall conform to the following:
  - a. Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; and
  - b. Be secured with ties or ear loops; and
  - c. Include multiple layers of fabric; and
  - d. Allow for breathing without restriction; and
  - e. May be removed for eating, drinking where allowed
  - f. Disposable surgical/procedural masks, N-95s, elastomeric masks, cloth masks are permitted
  - g. Masks with exhale valves are not permitted

#### **Section 4 Exemptions:**

Nothing in this order is intended to encourage residents to act as an enforcement authority for the City of Springfield. Residents should not take it upon themselves to approach people in violation of this order. Residents are urged to focus solely on their personal compliance with this order.

1. Nothing in this order shall be construed to require a mask to be worn by children under age two (2) or children who frequently compromise mask integrity with frequent manipulations or removals, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance or anyone who cannot wear a mask for other underlying health and safety reasons.

2. Employees in shared office spaces are not required to mask if social distancing of six feet or more can be maintained.
3. Performers who are singing and/or playing brass or wind instruments, who are performance artists or who are presenting or speaking at an event, are not required to wear face coverings but must adhere to social distancing of at least 10 feet from any member of the public when performing indoors and outdoors
4. Face coverings are not required and shall not be worn when actively participating in water-based activities and when swimming. Wearing a mask in these circumstances increases drowning risk. Face coverings shall be worn at all times when not in water, including but not limited to indoor pool decks, locker rooms, changing rooms, and restrooms.

**Section 5 Enforcement:**


The person or entity in control of a public indoor space shall have the obligation to enforce the requirements of the mask mandate set forth in these policies and procedures. The person or entity in control of a public indoor space, himself or by his employee, servant or agent, or as the employee, servant or agent of any other person or any firm or corporation, who violates any reasonable health regulation, made under authority of this section, for which no penalty by way of fine or imprisonment, or both, is provided by law, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three hundred (\$300.00) dollars per day.

**Section 6 Effective:**

This order is in effect at 12:01 A.M. January 3, 2022, and remain in effect until March 4, 2022 unless otherwise amended or rescinded.

**Springfield Board of Health**

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Helen Caulton-Harris, Commissioner,  
City of Springfield  
Department of Health and Human Services