



Stephen Bell, MPH  
Director of Public Health

Office of  
**Board of Health**  
Town Hall  
126 Main Street, Suite D  
Ware, Massachusetts 01082  
(413) 967-9615

**COVID-19 MANDATORY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR WEARING OF MASKS OR OTHER FACE COVERINGS IN INDOOR SPACES IN SCHOOLS, DAYCARES, AND OTHER CHILDREN'S CLASSES AND PROGRAMS IN THE TOWN OF WARE**

WHEREAS, the delta variants are now accounting for greater than 90% of cases in Massachusetts (source: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions>); and

WHEREAS, the delta variants are significantly more contagious than previous variants, allowing vaccinated individuals to readily transmit the virus to unvaccinated; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of eligible children in Ware that are fully vaccinated as of 8/12/21 is 38.8%; and

WHEREAS, children under the age of 12 years old are not yet eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is known that masks can slow or prevent the transmission of all COVID-19 variants so far; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC: "Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status." Similar guidance and recommendations have been made by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians.

NOW, THEREFORE, commencing on August 26, 2021 at 12:00 am, the following policies and procedures **MUST** be implemented at all times in schools, daycares, and all other indoor children's programs or classes in the town of Ware.

**Section 1: Authority**

This order is promulgated under the authority granted to the Board of Health under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 111, Section 31 and Chapter 111, Section 122.

**Section 2: Definitions**

Indoor child-related spaces – The term "child-related spaces" shall include the schools, daycares, and any recreational or educational programs for children that are inside buildings or structures.

- This includes, but is not limited to: schools; daycares; library or recreation programs

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

Except as specified in Section 4, masks are required in indoor child-related spaces, regardless of vaccination status, for all teachers, instructors, staff, visitors, and children aged five (5) years old and up.

1. Students/attendees of indoor child-related spaces must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the indoor space
2. Teachers and staff of indoor child-related spaces must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the indoor space
3. Visitors to indoor child-related spaces must wear masks or other face coverings at all times while on the premises of the space
4. All masks 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. Allow for breathing without restriction; and
  - d. Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape; and
  - e. May be removed for eating and drinking; and
  - f. Disposable surgical/procedural masks are permitted

### **Section 4: Exemptions**

1. Nothing in this order shall be construed to require a mask to be worn by children under age five (5) or children who frequently compromise mask integrity with manipulation 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 reasons.
2. Teachers/staff who are in an enclosed space with a barrier between adults in the indoor child-related space may be exempt from wearing a mask or face covering when not in the presence of children

### **Section 5: Enforcement**

The person or entity in charge of a school, daycare, or child program shall have the obligation to enforce the requirements of the mask mandate set forth in these policies and procedures.

### **Section 6: Effective**

This order is in effect at 12:00 am, August 26, 2021

### **Board of Health Members**

John Desmond, Chair

Jennifer McMartin, MSN-RN

Katrina Velle, PhD