Needham Board of Health

REVISED AGENDA

Tuesday April 28, 2020
3:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 937-9594-1621

Under Governor Charlie Baker's emergency "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, S20", issued March 12, 2020 and in effect until termination of the emergency, meetings of public bodies may be conducted virtually provided that adequate access is provided to the public. The Needham Board of Health will hold this meeting virtually on April 16, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. No public participation is anticipated for this meeting.

To listen and view this virtual meeting on a phone, computer, laptop, or tablet, download the "Zoom Cloud Meeting" app in any app store or at www.zoom.us. At the above date and time, click on "Join a Meeting" and enter the meeting ID 937-9594-1621 or click the link below to join the webinar:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c4Ge0J3XSPqPAQWEkSM19Q

- **3:00 – COVID-19 Update**
- **3:10 – Board of Health Discussion & Vote – Regulation/Emergency Order re: Face Coverings and Other Efforts to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Infection**
    - **Draft Regulation/Emergency Order re: Face Coverings**
    - **Examples of Orders from other Massachusetts Communities**
    - **Public Comments Received re: Possible Regulation/Emergency Order**
- **Other Items – Next BOH meeting Tentatively on Tuesday, May 12th at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Adjournment**

(Please note that all times are approximate)

178 Rosemary Street, Needham, MA 02494
E-mail: healthdepartment@needhamma.gov
781-455-7940 (tel); 781-455-7922 (fax)
Web: www.needhamma.gov/health

Board of Health

Kathleen Ward Brown, ScD Edward Cosgrove, PhD Stephen Epstein, MD, MPP
Christina S. Mathews, MPH Robert Partridge, MD, MPH

Public Health Emergency Order Mandating Face Coverings

Whereas, on March 10, 2020, Massachusetts Governor Charles D. Baker, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 195 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19, or SARS-CoV2 virus); and

Whereas, on March 15, 2020 Governor Baker issued an emergency Order (the "March 15, 2020 Order") to respond t the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drinks at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

Whereas, on March 23, 2020 Governor Baker issued an Order (the "March 23, 2020 Executive Order") limiting gatherings of more than ten people in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and orderings businesses, other than those that provide COVID-19 essential services as defined in the March 23, 2020 Executive Order as amended ("COVID-19 Essential Businesses"), to close their brick and mortar operations and operate only by remote means; and

Whereas, the Select Board of the Town of Needham issued a local Declaration of Emergency on March 20, 2020; and

Whereas, current scientific consensus is that the SARS-CoV2 virus can be transmitted both by asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases;[1] and

Whereas, some scientific evidence supports the use of face coverings to prevent transmission by large droplets; [2] and

[1] https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html
[2] National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2020. Rapid Expert Consultation on the Effectiveness of Fabric Masks for the COVID-19 Pandemic (April 8, 2020). Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. https://doi.org/10.17226/25776.

First proposed on April 24, 2020. Subject of a Board of Health hearing on April 28, 2020. Adopted by ___ vote of the Needham Board of Health on April 28, 2020. This Emergency Order takes effect on May 1, 2020 at 6:01 a.m.

Whereas, the Board of Health of the Town of Needham is vested by M.G.L. c. 111, § 104[3] with the authority and responsibility to prevent the spread of infection; and

Whereas, the Board of Health of the Town of Needham is given authority to enact emergency orders by 310 C.M.R. 11.05;[4] and

Whereas, the Board of Health of the Town of Needham is vested by M.G.L. c. 111, § 31[5] with the authority and responsibility to make reasonable health regulations; and

Whereas, the Board of Health of the Town of Needham is vested by M.G.L. c. 111, § 122 to examine and destroy, remove, or prevent causes of sickness;[6]

Now therefore, the Board of Health of the Town of Needham does herby order the following:

1) Employees of all businesses shall wear a face covering over their mouth and nose when interacting with the public and whenever they are within six feet of a co-worker or a customer. Please see personal protective equipment guidelines and recommendations at: http://www.needhamma.gov/4860/Face-MaskCovering-Guidance

2) Members of the public entering any business, work site, or government building must wear a face covering, such as a fabric mask, scarf, or bandana, over their nose and mouth.

3) Members of the public entering a restaurant for the purpose of picking up food for take-out must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth.

4) Residents, visitors, and members of the general public entering or exiting a residential or commercial building complex of greater than two (2) units must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth while in common areas and communal spaces and must exercise social distancing in these spaces in accordance with CDC guidelines available at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-di... . Residential and commercial building complexes shall post signage

[3] M.G.L. § 104 provides: "If a disease dangerous to the public heath exists in a town, the selectmen and board of health shall use all possible care to prevent the spread of infection…"

[4] 310 C.M.R. 11.05 states: "Whenever an emergency exists in which the interest of protecting public health … requires that ordinary procedures be dispensed with, the board of health or its authorized agent, acting in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 111 §30, may, without notice or hearing, issue an order reciting the existence of the emergency and requiring that such action be taken as the board of health deems necessary to meet the emergency."

[5] M.G.L. § 31 provides: "Boards of health may make reasonable health regulations."

[6] M.G.L. § 122 provides: ""The board of health shall examine into all nuisances, sources of filth and causes of sickness within its town, or on board of vessels within the harbor of such town, which may, in its opinion, be injurious to the public health, shall destroy, remove or prevent the same as the case may require, and shall make regulations for the public health and safety relative thereto…"

DRAFT

informing all residents, staff, and visitors that face coverings must be at all times in common areas of the building, and reminding all residents, staff, and visitors that a distance of six feet between individuals must be observed, except when those individuals are members of the same household or are engaged in caring for a child.

5) a. Essential retail establishments as defined by Governor Baker's COVID-19 Executive Orders must limit the number of customers and staff inside the establishment at any given time so that social distancing of six feet may be maintained. All retail establishments must establish maximum occupancy loads in accordance with the "Guidance for Grocery Stores" issued by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health on April 7, 2020. See this order at: https://www.mass.gov/doc/order-grocery-stores-40-percent/download. Maximum occupancy shall be posted at each entrance to the establishment and shall be readily visible to members of the public.

b. An employee of the retailer shall be designated to ensure the maximum number of individuals inside of the store is not exceeded. Customers queued outside of the store must maintain a minimum of six feet distance.

c. Any portions of the store requiring extra staffing solely dedicated to services that are deemed nonessential pursuant to Governor Baker's COVID-19 Executive Orders shall be closed.

d. Reusable shopping bags are prohibited. Single-use bags are permitted and shall be provided at no extra cost to customers.

6) Operation of Ice Cream Trucks is Prohibited. Ice cream trucks will not be permitted to operate in the Town of Needham until a determination has been made by the Needham Board of Health that their business operations can be safely conducted without increasing the risk of infection. Brick and mortar establishments serving ice cream will be allowed to operate in accordance with the Governor's Directive if effective social distancing measures are implemented.

This Emergency Order shall not apply to anyone under the age of five, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance, and/or any other person exempted by Center for Disease Control & Prevention guidelines or Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines. Those who are unable to safely don a face covering due to access or functional needs should not wear one.

This Emergency Order shall not reduce or eliminate the requirement of maintaining safe distancing. The use of a face covering should be combined with social distancing

and frequent handwashing and refraining from touching one's face. The use of a face covering is NOT intended to replace those activities but rather to supplement them.

This Emergency Order does not require or recommend the wearing of a face covering in outdoor settings when a safe distance (minimum of six feet) between other persons is observed.

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

This emergency order shall take effect on Friday May 1, 2020 at 6:01 a.m. and shall remain in effect for a period of 65 days or until notice is given, pursuant to the Board of Health's judgement, that the Public Health Emergency no longer exists.

To the extent necessary, this Order shall be enforced by the Director of Health & Human Services and others he chooses to empower as agents of the Board of Health.

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TOWN OF BROOKLINE
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
Brookline, Massachusetts

Mandatory Use of Face Coverings in Public

Stop the Spread—Save a Life—Wear a Mask

The Brookline Commissioner of Public Health strongly encourages residents to stay home to avoid potential spread of COVID-19. This is part of the Town of Brookline's overall strategy to keep residents and essential workers safe & healthy.

Everyone aged 2 and over is required to wear a face covering in public. Children under age 2 and those who are unable to easily remove a mask due to disability/illness should not wear one.

The Brookline Police and Fire Departments ask residents not to call 911 about face covering related matters. Anyone with concerns should call the Brookline Department of Public health at 617-730-2300.

For more information on this mandate, how to make/obtain masks, and other COVID related issues, please visit: www.BrooklineCOVID19.com

Thank you for helping to keep Brookline safe and healthy during this Public Health Emergency.

*** This mandate is effective as of 4/17/2020*

Face coverings can be made out of household fabrics and materials, and should ideally have multiple layers.

Got Masks Brookline is a local organization helping to connect those in need of face coverings with those who have the capability to make them. To request a mask, or if you're able to contribute masks to those in need, visit gotmasksbrookline.org.

Additionally, the Public Library of Brookline has made instructions available for how to create your own mask at home. Click here for more information.

Cloth face coverings should:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties and or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change in shape

Select Board Guidance on Face Coverings

1. COVID-19 Kills! To prevent unnecessary deaths, especially of the elderly and people with serious health conditions, the Brookline Select Board urges all Brookline residents to stay home to save lives; except for occasionally going outside to perform essential tasks (unless you have symptoms in which case you should not go outside your home). We cannot exactly define what essential tasks include, but we do expect each person to use good judgment, taking into consideration the deadly-seriousness of the COVID-19 crisis in deciding whether they need to go out and about. When you do go outside, you must wear a face covering and follow the advice in this Guidance.

2. Why We Require Face Coverings Now. Recent studies have shown that a significant portion of individuals with the COVID-19 virus lack symptoms and can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity in many settings. Accordingly, the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") and the Brookline Health Director are advising people to wear a cloth face covering to cover their nose and mouth when in public or in any setting where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. This is primarily to protect people around you if you are infected but do not have symptoms. By preventing the transmission of the virus by people who are asymptomatic, we can quickly reduce the transmission rate to below one transmission per infected person, which will result in containment of the virus and a quicker return to normal.
3. Types of Appropriate Face Covering to Wear. Surgical masks and N95 respirators are in short supply and should be reserved for healthcare workers or other medical first responders. Other people should use consumer marketed face masks or cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or common materials available at low cost. Face covering should (i) fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and cover your nose and mouth, (ii) be secured with ties or ear loops, (iii) include multiple layers of fabric, (iv) allow for breathing without restriction, and (v) be able to be laundered and dried without damage or change in shape. Such face coverings have been shown to significantly reduce the amount of virus carrying droplets or aerosol sprays from a sneeze, a cough, or talking.
4. When to Wear Face Coverings. Face coverings should be worn whenever you are in public or in any setting where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. A face covering should be worn but is not required when you are (i) alone inside or alone outside and far from other people (i.e., based on recent studies, 20 to 25 feet away is a good guide – see below), (ii) riding or driving in an enclosed personal vehicle, or (iii) with other members of your household who do not have symptoms of the virus or were not recently exposed to the virus.
5. Face Covering Cautions for Children and People with Health Conditions. Cloth face coverings or masks should not be placed on children younger than 2 years of age, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering or mask without assistance.
6. Face Covering Hygiene. You should have multiple cloth face coverings or washable consumer marketed face masks. They should be taken off and washed with warm soapy water after each use, which will destroy the lipids (fat cells) on the membrane of the virus much like handwashing washes away dirt and germs.
7. Social Distancing Still Required When Wearing a Face Covering. Even when wearing a face covering you should maintain social distancing to protect others and to protect yourself from others. Six feet is the range of most coughs that can spread COVID-19 virus droplets. But recent studies suggest that aerosols sprays of the virus can travel 3 or more times that length. Thus, it is important to keep as much distance as possible between you and others in public, especially from persons not wearing a face covering or not properly wearing one.

8. Healthy Outdoor Exercise. Getting out for reasonable periods of exercise for cardiovascular and general health reasons, including mental health, is not prohibited. But when you are out in public walking, running, or biking, this Guidance is especially important. Also important is selecting routes for your exercise that are not crowded. So, for example, instead of Coolidge Corner, you should use side streets with little traffic.
9. Enforcement Measures. Brookline's Police Department should not be seen as the public health police to enforce the Health Department Advisory. *Do Not Call* 911 or the regular Police Department phone number to report someone not wearing a face covering. The initial enforcement focus of the Police and other Town bodies will be education. We also expect that the community will evolve a culture of wearing face coverings to protect each other from the COVID-19 virus and thereby exert peer pressure on people around them. Of course, further enforcement actions may be necessary if voluntary compliance is failing to provide the safety that we need. The Health Department Advisory, however, requires essential businesses to enforce the wearing of face coverings by their employees and customers. Businesses not adhering to these requirements may face fines or, in egregious cases, the Health Department may shut down a business, construction site, or other activity.
10. Send a Strong Message to Others by Wearing Your Face Covering in Public. When more people are seen wearing face coverings, the message will get around that a face covering is the norm and everyone should wear one. This cultural shift will play a major role in containing the virus.
11. Inconvenience of Wearing Face Coverings? Following the advice in this Guidance will entail some inconvenience, but the inconvenience is not unreasonably burdensome and will help keep you, your family, the people around you in public, and the community safe and healthy. And following the advice in this Guidance will hasten the time that the COVID-19 virus can be contained and we can begin to return to normal.

CDC fact sheet, *"Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19"* with helpful illustrations of how to easily and inexpensively make cloth face coverings can be found at:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf

INFORMATIONAL ALERT | Coronavirus Updates

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE ISSUES EMERGENCY ORDER REQUIRING USE OF FACE COVERINGS

April 27, 2020

The City of Cambridge today issued an emergency order requiring that face coverings be worn in all public places, businesses and common areas of residential buildings. The order takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, and applies to everyone over the age of five years old, with exceptions in alignment with guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control or Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Violations may be punishable by a $300 fine.

"While we are grateful to those in Cambridge who have been heeding our previous mask advisory and taking this issue seriously, we are concerned about the number of residents who continue to shop, walk, run and bike throughout the city without proper face coverings," said Mayor Siddiqui and City Manager DePasquale in a joint statement. "We must all do our part in flattening the curve and make sure we are preventing the further spread of COVID-19. This mandate emphasizes the importance of wearing a face covering, not as an option, but as a requirement in our effort to combat this pandemic together."

The order applies to everyone over five years old "without limitation, when on, in or about" public places, defined as:

- Sidewalks
- Streets
- Parks
- Plazas
- Bus stops
- Non-residential parking lots and garages
- Any other outdoor area or non-residential parking facility which is open and accessible to the general public.

The mask requirement also applies to anyone working in or visiting an essential business, as well as shoppers and consumers. Masks must remain on throughout shifts or visits to those businesses. The businesses covered under the order, include:

- Grocery stores or supermarkets
- Pharmacies
- Laundromats
- Dry cleaners
- Hardware stores
- Restaurants, cafes or similar establishments where prepared foods, meals or beverages may be purchased
- Local government buildings
- Commercial office buildings
- All essential businesses defined in Governor Baker's March 23, 2020 Executive Order

In residential buildings of two or more units, masks will be required prior to entering any common area, including:

- Lobbies
- Hallways
- Elevators
- Stairwells
- Laundry rooms
- Garages or parking lots
- Walkways
- Yards and other outdoor common areas
- Mailrooms and other indoor common areas

Residents are reminded to serve as positive community role models by wearing their masks during this order. The Cambridge Police Department will be focused on educating violators and may issue warnings to those residents who do not cooperate. For those who willingly refuse to comply, they may be subject to a $300 fine. There will be a one-week grace period to allow time to comply.

The full text of the emergency order can be found at:
https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/citymanagersoffice/COVID19/temporaryorderrequiringmasksandfacecoverings_042

As a reminder, face covering is not a substitute for physical distancing and regular hand washing, which remain among the most effective ways to slow the spread of COVID-19. The single most effective way to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 is to stay home.

The City is committed to identifying new resources to help residents and businesses navigate this difficult time. For more information and to sign up to receive updates on COVID-19, please visit the City's dedicated information page:
https://www.cambridgema.gov/covid19

More information, videos, and frequently asked questions about face coverings can be found here.

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDER REQUIRING THE WEARING OF MASKS OR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS IN ALL PUBLIC PLACES, BUSINESSES, AND IN COMMON AREAS OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19") is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker issued an emergency Order (the "March 15, 2020 Order") to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Order (the "March 23, 2020 Executive Order") limiting gatherings of more than ten people in the Commonwealth and ordering businesses, other than those that provide COVID-19 essential services as defined in the March 23, 2020 Executive Order as amended ("COVID-19 Essential Businesses"), to close their brick and mortar operations and operate only by remote means; and

WHEREAS, the Cambridge Commissioner of Public Health and the Cambridge City Manager, in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health have determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of the City of Cambridge, and on March 19, 2020, the Cambridge Commissioner of Public Health and Cambridge City Manager declared that a state of emergency exists in the City of Cambridge (the "State of Emergency"); and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Order extending the March 23, 2020 Executive Order closing of businesses, other than those that provide COVID-19 essential services, to May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued an Advisory stating that the wearing of a face covering may help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by individuals who are infected, including those who show no signs of illness; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Cambridge Commissioner of Public Health and the City Manager hereby order (the "Emergency Order") as follows:

1. Each person over the age of four years old shall wear a mask or cloth face covering which covers both the mouth and nose at all times when in public, including, without limitation, when on, in, or about sidewalks, streets, parks, plazas, bus stops, non-residential parking lots and garages, and any other outdoor area or non-residential parking facility which is open and accessible to the general public ("Public Areas").

2. Any person, including employees of businesses, over the age of five years old entering any business open to the public, including, without limitation, grocery stores, supermarkets, pharmacies, laundromats, dry cleaners, hardware stores, restaurants, cafes or similar establishments where prepared foods, meals or beverages may be purchased, local government buildings, commercial office buildings (hereinafter, "Places of Business") shall wear a mask or a cloth face covering which covers both the mouth and nose prior to entering such Place of Business and continuously during the time the person is in the Place of Business. All Places of Business shall post signage at entrances to buildings informing the public that masks or cloth face coverings must be worn at all times within or about the premises of the Place of Business.

3. All employees, contractors, or visitors to COVID-19 Essential Businesses as defined in Governor Baker's March 23, 2020 Executive Order as amended ("Essential Businesses") shall wear a mask or a cloth face covering which covers both the mouth and nose prior to entering any COVID-19 Essential Business for work or any other purpose and at all times while on the Essential Business' premises or at the Essential Business' work site. All COVID-19 Essential Businesses shall maintain additional measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including, providing disposable gloves, hand sanitizer, and disposable masks or cloth face coverings to all employees, requiring employees to wash hands, even where gloves are worn, with soapy water at regular intervals (every thirty minutes) and providing handwashing stations for that purpose, requiring employees to maintain a distance of six feet at all times practicable, screening employees for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to allowing them on work sites, and ordering sick employees to stay at home. Employees who recovered from symptoms of COVID-19 shall not return to work until they have met the CDC's guidelines for ending home isolation posted at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ending-isolation.html. Essential Businesses shall follow the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's "Safety Practices for Non-Healthcare Essential Service Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19" issued on April 14, 2020 and posted at: https://www.mass.gov/doc/non-healthcare-essential-service-worker-covid-19-exposure-guidance/download.

4. In addition to the above-enumerated requirements, Essential Businesses which are retail establishments as defined by Governor Baker's Covid-19 Executive Orders ("Essential Retail Establishments") must limit the number of customers and staff inside the establishment at any given time so that social distancing of six feet may be maintained and must establish maximum occupancy loads of forty percent of the maximum allowable occupancy of the establishment in order to allow for such social distancing of six feet within the establishment in accordance with the Guidance for Grocery Stores and Local Boards of Health issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on April 7, 2020 and posted at: https://www.mass.gov/doc/order-grocery-stores-40-percent/download. Maximum occupancy shall be posted at each entrance to the establishment and shall be readily visible to members of the public. An employee of the retailer shall be designated to ensure the maximum number of individuals inside of the store is not exceeded. Customers queued outside of the store must maintain a minimum of six feet distance. In addition, all Essential Retail Establishments shall take any and all steps necessary to follow the Guidance for Grocery Stores issued by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health on March 25, 2020 and posted at https://www.mass.gov/doc/march-25-2020-pharmacy-grocery-order.

5. In residential buildings consisting of at least two dwelling units ("Residential Buildings"), any person over the age of four years old shall wear a mask or cloth face covering which covers both the mouth and nose prior to entering, without limitation, any lobby, hallway, elevator, stairwell, laundry room, garage or parking lot, walkway, yard and other common outdoor areas, or any other indoor or outdoor areas in or about a residential building which are accessible to more than one dwelling unit (collectively, "Common Areas") of that building. Residential Buildings shall post signage in or about such Common Areas informing all residents that masks or cloth face coverings must be worn at all times while in or about such Common Areas. Any person entering such Common Areas shall maintain a distance of six feet between any other individual in said Common Areas excepting individuals who live in the same household or individuals who are caring for a child.

6. The Cambridge Public Health Commission may issue guidance consistent with the provisions of this Emergency Order.

This Emergency Order shall not apply to anyone under the age of five, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance, and/or any other person exempted by Centers for Disease Control guidelines or Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines.

This Emergency Order shall take effect at midnight (12:01 a.m.) on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 and shall remain in effect until further notice or until the declaration of a State of Emergency in the City has been rescinded.

Any person found to be in violation of this Emergency Order may be issued a warning or may be issued a violation notice with a fine of three hundred dollars ($300). The person to whom a violation notice has been issued pursuant to this Emergency Order may request a hearing before the Cambridge Commissioner of Public Health or his designee by filing with the Cambridge Public Health Commissioner within seven days of the date the violation notice was served, a written petition requesting a hearing on the matter. G. L c. 111 §§ 30, 95-105, 310 CMR 11.05 et seq., 105 CMR 300.200, and St. 1950, c. 639.

Dated: April _____, 2020

By:

_____ _____

Assaad J. Sayah, MD, Commissioner of Public Health Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager

April 21, 2020

City of Everett requiring people 5 years and older to wear face masks to slow spread of COVID-19

EVERETT, MASS. (WHDH) - Everett's Board of Health issued an executive order Monday requiring all residents and visitors over the age of 5 to wear face masks to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Under the new order, face coverings must be worn over the nose and mouth when entering inside a business open to the public, using public transportation, pumping gas or using other outdoor self-service facilities, and engaging in any activity within a confined or enclosed facility where other members of the public are present or have routine access.

Businesses are allowed to refuse service to any person who fails or refuses to wear a mask.

Anyone who refuses to cover their face after entering into a store, workplace of facility will be deemed a trespasser and may be subject to arrest and civil or criminal prosecution, according to the Board of Health.

This order does not apply to people engaging is permissible outdoor physical activity, those riding in a personal vehicle, and residents inside their own space with family or other household members. However, they are still encouraged to cover their faces.

Click here for more coronavirus coverage.

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Executive Order 2020-06

April 20, 2020

CITY OF EVERETT BOARD OF HEALTH ORDER TO REQUIRE MASK OR FACIAL COVERINGS IN CERTAIN PUBLIC PLACES

The City of Everett Board of Health pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws ch. 111 ss. 95-105 and the Board's authority to prevent the spread of infectious disease deems that the following action is necessary to protect the public health.

Whereas the Coronavirus Covid-19 is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

Whereas the Center for Disease Control has advised that the spread of the disease from person to person is caused by close (within six feet) or actual personal contact and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs of sneezes, and that people potentially can spread the disease even before they experience symptoms; and

Whereas the incidence of the Covid-19 virus, and deaths related to the illness in the City of Everett is among the highest in the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, evidence indicates that workers in Essential Services workplaces such as supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants offering take-out food, and other facilities where the public has general access are especially susceptible to the transmission of the disease; and

Whereas, the Center for Disease Control, the United States Surgeon General, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, among other federal and state medical authorities have recommended that individuals wear masks or other suitable facial covering to prevent individuals from infecting others; and

Whereas, these recommendations observe that covering an individual's nose and mouth can reduce the chance of spreading the virus as well as reduce the likelihood that an individual will touch their face; and

Whereas, the City of Everett Board of Health recognizes additional measures are necessary to prevent or reduce activities that increase the likelihood of the spread of a highly contagious infectious disease; and

Whereas, the State of Emergency declared in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in the City of Everett warrant emergency measures to prevent the spread of the infectious disease,

The City of Everett Board of Health hereby **ORDERS** that:

1. **All persons over the age of five (5) wear a mask, or some form of suitable covering over their nose and mouth** (i.e. a homemade mask, a scarf, bandana or handkerchief) **whenever**

    a. entering into the inside of any building open to the public; or

    b. using public transportation, taxis, or ride shares; or

    c. pumping gasoline or otherwise using outdoor self-service facilities; or

    d. engaged in any activity within a confined or enclosed facility where other members of the public are present or have routine access.

2. **Every store, workplace, or other facility providing Essential Services AND open to the public is required to place a sign no smaller than 8.5 x 11 inches and clearly visible on all doors and any point of entry into the facility stating that the use of a mask or other facial covering IS REQUIRED of every person upon entry into the facility and at all times while in the facility. A facility may impose stricter guidelines as it sees fit.**

3. **Every store, workplace, or other facility subject to this Order is authorized to refuse service to any person who fails or refuses to wear a mask or other facial covering while in such facility and is further authorized to expel such person from the facility.**

4. **Any person entering onto any store, workplace, or other facility, and any person remaining in such store, workplace or facility, who declines or refuses to wear a mask or such other facial covering as required by this Order shall be deemed a Trespasser upon the property and may be subject to arrest and civil or criminal prosecution.**

5. Social distancing of six feet (6') shall be adhered to while inside the store, workplace, or other facility. Clear markings of such distance shall be visible for persons entering such premises.

6. Food establishments, stores, and other essential workplaces will only be permitted to do business as follows:

- Drive-Thru or Curbside Takeout;
- Counter service will require the following;
    - Plexiglas sneeze guard shields shall be placed at countertops to prevent airborne transmission;
    - Not permitting customers to bring their own bags, mugs, or other reusable items from home;
    - Make disinfecting wipes and Hand sanitizer available;
    - Disinfect all payment portals, pens, high-contact surfaces, and styluses after each use.

This Order does not apply to persons who are engaged in permissible outdoor physical activity, riding in a personal vehicle, alone in a separate, single space, or indoors with their own shelter group such as family or household members, although every such person is ADVISED that the use of a mask or facial covering is encouraged. In addition to this Order, the Everett Board of Health hereby reaffirms its Updated Order Clarifying the Operation of Essential Businesses during the Declared Covid-19 State of Emergency issued April 8, 2020. ALL PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDER ARE EFFECTIVE AS OF 6:00 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020

So Ordered This 20th Day of April 2020

Carlo DeMaria

Mayor

Jerry Navarra

Jerry Navarra

Director of Health and Human

City of Framingham
Department of Public Health

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Address: 150 Concord Street, Room 205, Framingham, MA 01702
Framinghamma.gov

Office Telephone: (508) 532-5470
Office Fax: (508) 532-5760
Office Email: health@framinghamma.gov

Joint Order of the Framingham Board of Health and Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer
Relative to the Operations of Essential Services
April 15, 2020

Whereas, the City of Framingham and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are being affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic;

Whereas, on March 10, 2020 Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency in Massachusetts for COVID-19;

Whereas, the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health has declared that there is community level transmission in Middlesex County;

Whereas, on March 22, 2020 Mayor Yvonne Spicer declared a local state of emergency in Framingham to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Framingham retroactive to March 10, 2020;

Whereas, on March 16, 2020 at a duly posted and noticed meeting of the Board of Health, the Board voted unanimously to prohibit all in-person public meetings of any public body in Framingham until further notice, except meetings of the Framingham City Council, the City's municipal legislative body, and recommended that the City Council voluntarily agree to refrain from holding in-person public meetings and instead conduct its meetings on a fully remote basis until further notice from the Board of Health;

Whereas on April 2, 2020, at a duly posted and noticed meeting of the Board of Health, the Board voted to continue its Order of March 16, 2020, restricting in-person meeting of public bodies within Framingham until further notice by the Board of Health;

Whereas, on March 23, 2020 Governor Baker issued COVID-19 Order no. 13 entitled "Order Assuring Continued Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth, Closing Certain Workplaces and Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 10 People", which, among other things, restricted public gatherings to 10 people or less, closed businesses providing non-essential services, identified certain essential services and assured the continued operations of essential services in the Commonwealth subject to certain conditions;

Whereas, the Mayor has been consulted with regarding the terms of this Order and joins with the Board of Health to issue this order as a joint order of the Mayor and Board of Health as necessary for the protection of public health during this COVID-19 Pandemic and in furtherance of the Declaration of Local State of Emergency issued on March 22, 2020;

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Framinghamma.gov

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Whereas, COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus is slowed to protect the ability of our healthcare providers to handle the surge of new patients and safeguard public health and safety;

Whereas, an increasing number of workers of essential services are infected with COVID-19;

Whereas, an increasing number of residents of multi-unit residential buildings are infected with COVID-19;

Whereas, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and pharmacies;

Whereas, the CDC recommendation on cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N95 respirators, which should be reserved for medical professionals and first responders;

Whereas, CDC have established guidance on how to make cloth face coverings at home (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html);

Now, in accordance with the authority invested in the Board of Health by G.L. c. 111 generally and G.L. c. 111 sections 6, 7 and 104 and 310 CMR 11.05, and in accordance with the authority vested in the Mayor by Art. III, §2 of the Home Rule Charter and her implied and express authority as Mayor pursuant to the Declaration of Local Emergency issued on March 22, 2020, the Framingham Board of Health and Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer, respectively, hereby issue the following further order relative to the operations of essential services in Framingham:

Order:

- **All members of the public aged two years and older entering any essential businesses as defined by Governor Baker's COVID-19 Order No. 13, including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, laundromats, home improvement stores, restaurants (including exterior pickup sites), shall wear a clean face covering, such as a fabric face mask, scarf, or bandana, over their mouth and nose, and exercise social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines. Operators of essential services shall ensure their customers are in compliance of this requirement.**
- **All employees of all essential services shall wear a clean face covering, such as a fabric face mask, scarf, or bandana, over their mouth and nose, and exercise social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines. Operators of essential services shall ensure their employees are in compliance with this requirement.**
- **All members of the public aged two years and older entering, exiting, or occupying common areas of any multi-unit residential or commercial building shall wear a clean face**

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Framinghamma.gov

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covering, such as a fabric face mask, scarf, or bandana, over their mouth and nose, and exercise social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines.

- **All nonessential service departments (such as floral, jewelry, furniture, etc.) within a grocery store or box store should be closed.**
- **Additional best practices should be employed by essential businesses as defined in Governor Baker's COVID-19 Order No. 13 to the maximum extent possible in order to enhance social distancing in grocery stores, pharmacies, and box stores:**
    - **Offer home delivery options and encourage online ordering and payment**
    - **Provide public announcements every 30 minutes to remind shoppers to wear cloth face covering, keep physical distance, avoid crowding, keep distance at check-out, and not load items onto conveyor belt until the customer in front has finished their transaction.**
    - **Consider relocating high demand items to limit the amount of time customers are in the store.**
    - **Establish one-way only flow for aisle shopping.**

Posted on: April 14, 2020

PRESS RELEASE: Northampton Health Department Issues Mandatory Orders on Face Coverings

For Immediate Release - April 14, 2020

Northampton Health Department Issues Mandatory Orders on Face Coverings

NORTHAMPTON - The City of Northampton's Public Health Director, Merridith O'Leary, issued orders, effective April 16, 2020, at 12:01 a.m., establishing that all consumers and employees must wear face coverings at all times when social distancing can not be maintained, at any businesses providing essential services within the City of Northampton.

On April 3, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control issued an advisory concerning the wearing of face coverings when people are unable to maintain safe social distancing (a distance defined as six (6) feet or greater). On April 10, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued a similar advisory regarding the wearing of face coverings in public. The following policies and procedures, outlined by the Northampton Health Department, are intended to expand on those advisories and to provide specific direction for customers and employees of brick and mortar businesses providing essential services in the City of Northampton.

The Health Department and Mayor David Narkewicz urge Northampton residents to stay home. This is absolutely the most effective way to protect yourself and others against COVID-19. If you must go out because you are out of food or medication, wearing a mask, or even a bandana across your nose and mouth, is a small measure of protection meant to compliment all other personal protection guidance that has been provided. We now know that you can spread disease up to two days prior to becoming ill with COVID-19. Wearing a face covering helps protect those around you if you don't know you are ill yet. "You don't need a surgical mask," said Mayor Narkewicz, "we need those for our health care workers and first responders."

Residents are warned that face coverings are effective only when used in combination with frequent hand-cleaning with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers. When someone wears a face covering, they must make sure they are properly wearing it, using it, washing it, and disposing of it. Furthermore, using correct procedure to wear and remove a mask must be followed to ensure its effectiveness.

- Before putting on a face covering, clean hands with soap and running water or alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover mouth and nose with a face covering and make sure there are no gaps between your face and the cover.
- Avoid touching the face cover while using it; if you do, clean your hands thoroughly immediately.
- Replace the face cover with a new one after long use (4 hours) or as soon as it is damp. Do not reuse single-use masks.
- To remove the mask: remove it from behind, without touching the front of the mask (do this by only touching ear-loops if possible), discard immediately in a closed bin or laundry basket; clean hands with soap and clean water or alcohol-based hand rub.

Wearing a mask when residents must go out to an essential business may help reduce transmission to the employees of these businesses who are at great risk of exposure due to the nature of their job. These public facing, front line employees help keep us alive by providing us with the supplies that we need, so we owe it to them to do everything that we can to keep them safe while they work, and right now that is wearing a mask.

The City of Northampton and Cooley Dickinson Hospital have partnered to streamline collections, launder and package donations, and distribute. We are currently seeking donations for face coverings. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention provides instructions on how to make sew and no-sew face coverings. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings

Residents who wish to donate approved face coverings should drop them off at Cooley Dickinson Hospital's North Entrance, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. - See more at: https://www.cooleydickinson.org/home/coronavirus-resources/donations

Residents, businesses, and public agencies in need of face coverings can request them by using the following form http://northamptonma.gov/FormCenter/Health-Department-18/Request-for-Cloth-Face-Coverings-131 or by visiting http://northamptonma.gov/2104/COVID-19-Coronavirus.

Important Exclusions:

1. Nothing in this order is intended to encourage residents to act as an enforcement authority for the City of Northampton. 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.

2. 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.

3. Nothing in this order shall be construed to reduce or eliminate the requirement of maintaining safe distancing.

4. Nothing in this order shall be construed to recommend or require the wearing of masks or face coverings outdoors where safe distancing can be maintained.

CITY OF PEABODY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
24 Lowell Street
Peabody, Massachusetts 01960
(978) 538-5926
Fax: (978) 538-5990

BOARD OF HEALTH
BERNARD H. HOROWITZ, CHAIRMAN
THOMAS J. DURKIN III
LEIGH ANN MANSBERGER, MD, MPH

SHARON CAMERON
DIRECTOR

CITY OF PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF HEALTH
EMERGENCY ORDER OF 4-13-20 REGARDING FACE COVERINGS

EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020 AT 12:01 A.M. DIRECTING ALL INDIVIDUALS IN THE CITY OF PEABODY TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS FROM THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is punishable by a fine of up to One Thousand Dollars pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 122.

On March 20, 2020, the Peabody Board of Health declared a Public Health Emergency in the City of Peabody.

Pursuant to the declaration of a public health emergency on March 20, 2020, in accordance with G.L. c.111, § 95 through 105 and 122, 310 CMR 11.05, 105 CMR 300.200 and any other authorizing statutes and regulations, we, the Board of Health of the City of Peabody, Massachusetts, in order to take additional measures to protect the public health during the COVID-19 public health emergency in light of current conditions, including an expected surge in COVID-19 cases, hereby order the following:

1. **All members of the public entering any essential business** as defined by Governor Baker's COVID-19 Executive Orders, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, farm stand stores, pharmacies, home improvement stores, banks, ice cream manufacturers/dairies, government agencies, liquor/beer/wine stores, convenience stores, and the like, **must wear a facial covering, such as a fabric mask, scarf or bandana**, over their nose and mouth. The facial covering does not have to be a surgical mask or N-95 respirator, which should be left for medical professionals and first responders. See this link for information on making a cloth facial covering: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html .

2. **All members of the public entering a restaurant** for the purpose of picking up food for take-out **must wear a facial covering** over their nose and mouth.

3. **All employees of all essential businesses open to the public shall wear a facial covering over their mouth and nose**. Employers and employees must also comply with all applicable CDC and DPH protocols and guidelines for their particular business, which may include recommendations and/or directives concerning the use of personal protective equipment, such as gloves. *Essential businesses open to the public shall use discretion for occupational health hazards regarding the use of facial coverings (i.e. cooks over grills, employees using machinery, etc.) and exercise best professional judgment on use of facial coverings or not during such occupational operations.*

CITY OF PEABODY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
24 Lowell Street
Peabody, Massachusetts 01960
(978) 538-5926
Fax: (978) 538-5990

BOARD OF HEALTH
BERNARD H. HOROWITZ, CHAIRMAN
THOMAS J. DURKIN III
LEIGH ANN MANSBERGER, MD, MPH

SHARON CAMERON
DIRECTOR

4. **Food/Goods delivery personnel** shall wear facial coverings over their nose and mouth when delivering the food/goods to the customer if there is a person-to-person exchange. Employees are required to comply with this requirement not contingent upon the ability of their employer to supply facial coverings.

5. **Any resident or member of the general public, including workforce, entering or exiting a residential or commercial building complex** of greater than one (1) unit must wear a facial covering over their nose and mouth while in common areas and communal spaces and must exercise social distancing in these spaces in accordance with CDC guidelines. See these guidelines at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019- ncov/preventgetting-sick/social-distancing.html .

6. All **persons are required to properly dispose of all gloves, facial coverings** and other personal protection equipment or other potentially virus-contaminated items in appropriate disposal bins. Penalties for failure to properly dispose of these materials will be in accordance with state and local law.

7. Each applicable essential business **shall post signage** at public and employee entrances requiring facial coverings and social and physical distancing of six feet from one another. Attached is a template example.

This emergency order shall be effective beginning APRIL 15th, 2020 AT 12:01 A.M. and remain in effect until the Public Health Emergency declaration issued by the Board of Health has been lifted. To the extent necessary, this Order shall be enforced by Board of Health officials and Peabody Police Officers.

The Peabody Board of Health order authorizes the Public Health Director or Public Health Nurse to further enhance physical and distancing procedures or requirements upon discretion and direction.

Bernard Horowitz, Chairman

Peabody Board of Health

April 13, 2020

CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, BOARD OF HEALTH
DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY - EMERGENCY ORDER

Pursuant to the declaration of a public health emergency on March 20, 2020, 310 CMR 11.05, 105 CMR 300.200 and all other authorizing statutes and regulations, acting by and through its agent authorized under MGL c. 111, §31 we, the Mayor and Board of Health of the City of Salem, Massachusetts, hereby order the following:

1) All members of the public entering any essential business as defined by Governor Baker's Covid-19 Executive Orders, including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, home improvement stores and the like must wear a cloth face covering, such as a fabric mask, scarf or bandana, over his or her nose and mouth. The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, which should be left for medical professionals and first responders. See this link for information on making a cloth face covering: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-fac....

2) All members of the public entering a restaurant for the purpose of picking up food for take-out must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth.

3) All employees of all essential businesses shall wear a face covering over their mouth and nose when interacting with the public and within six feet of a co-worker. Employers and employees must use previously prescribed protocols and guidelines for personal protective equipment such as gloves. See this protocol at: https://www.salem.com/sites/salemma/files/pages/protocols.pdf.

4) Any resident or member of the general public entering or exiting a residential or commercial building complex of greater than one (1) unit must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth while in common areas and communal spaces and must exercise social distancing in these spaces in accordance with CDC guidelines. See these guidelines at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-di....

5) a. Essential retail establishments as defined by Governor Baker's Covid-19 Executive Orders must limit the number of customers and staff inside the establishment at any given time so that social distancing of six feet may be maintained. All retail establishments must establish maximum occupancy loads in accordance with the "Guidance for Grocery Stores" issued by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health on April 7, 2020. See this order at: https://www.mass.gov/doc/order-grocery-stores-40-percent/download. Maximum occupancy shall be posted at each entrance to the establishment and shall be readily visible to members of the public.
b. An employee of the retailer shall be designated to ensure the maximum number of individuals inside of the store is not exceeded. Customers queued outside of the store must maintain a minimum of six feet distance.

c. Any portions of the store requiring extra staffing solely dedicated to services that are deemed nonessential pursuant to Governor Baker's Covid-19 Executive Orders shall be closed.
d. Reusable shopping bags are prohibited. Single-use bags are permitted and shall be provided at no extra cost to customers.

6) Operation of Ice Cream Trucks is Prohibited. Ice cream trucks will not be permitted to operate in the City of Salem until the Public Health Emergency declaration issued by the Salem Board of Health has been lifted. Brick and mortar establishments serving ice cream will be allowed to operate in accordance with the Governor's Directive if effective social distancing measures are implemented.

This emergency order shall be effective beginning SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020 AT 12:01AM and remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to the Board of Health's judgement, that the Public Health Emergency no longer exists.

To the extent necessary, this Order shall be enforced by Board of Health officials, Salem Police Officers and Building Inspectors.

ORDERED at City Hall this 9th day of April 2020

David Greenbaum, Health Agent, Salem Board of Health
For more information: (978) 741-1800"

City of **Somerville**

STAY AT HOME – SOCIAL DISTANCING SAVES LIVES. Start of Street Sweeping Delayed Until 5/4. City Buildings Closed Until 5/4. Schools Closed Through End of Academic Year. More Info at somervillema.gov/Coronavirus

Somerville Requires Mask or Face Covering in All Indoor and Outdoor Public Spaces

Order goes into effect Wednesday, April 29; Grace period will be granted to allow community time to comply

Monday, April 27, 2020

"It's encouraging how many residents are already wearing masks, and we will work with understanding to help others do so as well." -Chief of Police David Fallon

To help further slow the spread of COVID-19, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and the Somerville Board of Health announced today that Somerville's facial covering advisory will become mandatory. The new order requires anyone over the age of two to wear a clean face mask or face covering when in any indoor or outdoor space that is open to the public. The order, which has the unanimous support of the City Council, goes into effect on Wednesday, April 29, and a one-week grace period will be granted to allow the community time to comply.

"I know this feels strange for many of us, but it is the best way you can prevent yourself from inadvertently spreading coronavirus to others when you're out in public," said Mayor

City of Somerville

Curtatone "Not everyone who has COVID-19 shows symptoms. You can be carrying the virus and infecting others without knowing. No one wants to be the one who infected the grocery store clerk, or the hardware store stocker, or the family out for a stroll. Wearing a mask is one way to avoid that."

The order is based on safety guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It also takes into account that with more than 80,000 residents in just 4.1 square miles, Somerville is the most densely populated city in New England, which makes protective and social distancing measures all the more critical.

"Wearing a mask is far more effective if everyone is doing it," said City Council President Matt McLaughlin. "The effectiveness of face masks decreases significantly if someone infected with COVID-19 isn't wearing a mask, even if others do wear masks. We need a collective buy-in from the public to stop the spread of infection."

The City and the Somerville Police are aware that it may be a challenge for everyone to comply at all times, such as parents trying to keep masks on small children. The Police are committed to compassionate policing, and will seek first to educate members of the public about the face covering requirement wherever possible. As available, Officers will also carry masks to give to our most vulnerable residents such as persons experiencing homelessness or persons living with mental illness. However, after the one-week grace period, persons showing willful disregard, may be subject to a written warning or a $300 fine. Exceptions will be made for persons unable to medically tolerate a face covering.

"Ticketing for this is our last resort, but we do have to put public health first. So for those individuals who willfully fail to comply, we will reserve this option," said Chief of Police David Fallon. "It's encouraging how many residents are already wearing masks, and we will work with understanding to help others do so as well."

"I hope that everyone who is able does the right thing and covers their face. But I want to remind the general public that it is not your job to enforce this order." -Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Appropriate face coverings must cover the nose and mouth and be made from a clean material. Scarves, bandanas, or any piece of clean cloth, may be used. The Centers for Disease Control has suggestions for ways to make a face covering at home, including sew and no-sew options. There are also many tutorials on YouTube such as this no-sew mask bit.ly/3bRT2GU made from an old t-shirt. Meanwhile, the City will continue to prioritize distribution of any available masks to our most vulnerable residents.

“I hope that everyone who is able does the right thing and covers their face. But I want to remind the general public that it is not your job to enforce this order. Please just worry about yourself and your family,” said Mayor Curtatone. “I also know that there are members of our community who don’t feel safe wearing a face covering in public. We will do what we can to help make you feel more comfortable and I urge everyone in the community to do the same. Remember, if you see someone walking down the street with their face covered, they are doing what they are supposed to.”

Where must face coverings be worn?

Indoors, the order applies at any business open to the general public such as grocery stores, pharmacies, laundromats, hardware stores, and restaurant pickup sites. Face coverings must also be worn inside when in public common areas of multi-unit residences or commercial buildings such as entrances and public hallways.

Outside, face masks/coverings must be worn in or at all public spaces such as parks, sidewalks, streets, paths, squares, or outdoor commercial areas such as parking lots and outdoor premises of retail locations. Joggers and cyclists must adhere to the order along with pedestrians.

All open businesses must also display signs reminding anyone entering that they need to be wearing a face covering. While face masks can help control the spread of COVID-19, it’s important to remember it is an extra protection in addition to social distancing to help reduce transmission of the virus. Facial coverings do not make it safe for people to start congregating.

While the order does not require the use of face coverings on public transportation or in ride shares, because the City does not have authority to regulate these, it is strongly encouraged anyone using a shared means of transportation to wear one.

City of **Somerville**

For more information and regular COVID-19 updates, visit www.somervillema.gov/Coronavirus and sign up for City alerts at www.somervillema.gov/Alerts. We urge you to sign up for every alert method you are able to receive: phone call, text, email. Also, follow FB.com/SomervilleCity and @SomervilleCity.

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR AND BOARD OF HEALTH

EMERGENCY ORDER MANDATING FACE COVERINGS

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has declared a State of Emergency on March 10, 2020 due to the virus that caused the Coronavirus 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Somerville has determined that the threat of COVID-19 poses a present, real and imminent danger to public health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Somerville and as such declared a State of Emergency in the City of Somerville on March 15, 2020;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised that the spread of the disease from person to person is caused in part by respiratory droplets produced by infected persons and spread, e.g., via respiration, coughing or sneezing, and that people potentially can spread the disease even before they experience symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of the Covid-19 virus, and deaths related to the illness continue to rise in the City of Somerville and the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, evidence indicates that workers in Essential Services workplaces such as supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants offering take-out food and groceries, and other facilities where the public has general access are especially susceptible to the transmission of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States Surgeon General, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, among other federal and state medical authorities have recommended that individuals wear masks or other suitable facial covering to prevent individuals from infecting others; and

WHEREAS, these recommendations observe that covering an individual's nose and mouth can reduce the chance of spreading the virus;

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville is a densely populated city, making it difficult to maintain six feet of distance between people at all times in public space; and

CITY HALL ● 93 HIGHLAND AVENUE ● SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02143
(617) 625-6600, EXT. 2100 ● TTY: (866) 808-4851● FAX: (617) 625- 3434
E-MAIL: **mayor@somervillema.gov**

Somerville All-America City 2009

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville Board of Health recognizes additional measures are necessary to prevent or reduce activities that increase the likelihood of the spread of a highly contagious infectious disease;

The Mayor and the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL c. 111 §§ 95-105, 310 CMR 11.05, 105 CMR 300.200 and all other authorizing statutes and regulations, acting by and through its agent authorized under MGL c. 111, §30, hereby order:

1. Effective at 12:01 a.m., April 29, 2020 any individual who is age two (2) or older, and not otherwise exempt per CDC guidelines, shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a clean mask or face-covering (e.g. disposable mask, cloth mask, face shield, bandana, scarf) when in or at any location open to the general public including all indoor locations open to the public, outdoor premises of private locations open to the public, and all public outdoor locations (e.g., parks, sidewalks, streets, public squares, paths, all City property).
2. All Essential Businesses, healthcare facilities and any other establishment open to the public must post a notice at entry requiring those entering to wear a face-covering or mask, as described in Paragraph 1.
3. This order is enforceable by a fine of $300.
4. This order shall remain in effect until notice is given that it is no longer necessary, or the Board of Health declares that a Public Health Emergency no longer exists.

Douglas Kress, Director of Health and Human Services
Acting Agent of the Board of Health

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Date: April 26, 2020

CITY HALL ● 93 HIGHLAND AVENUE ● SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02143
(617) 625-6600, EXT. 2100 ● TTY: (866) 808-4851● FAX: (617) 625- 3434
E-MAIL: **mayor@somervillema.gov**

Somerville All-America City 2009

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
CITY MANAGER

CITY OF WORCESTER

ORDER REQUIRING EMPLOYEES OF ESSENTIAL RETAIL BUSINESSES TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, I, Edward M. Augustus, Jr., city manager of the city of Worcester, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the city charter to act as the chief conservator of the peace within the city, and pursuant to Article Seven, Section 8 of the Worcester Revised Ordinances 2015, Part Two, declared that a state of emergency exists in the entire city of Worcester due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker, as authorized during a state of emergency pursuant to sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950, issued an order ensuring continued operation of essential services in the Commonwealth, closing certain workplaces, and prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people ("the governor's order"); and

WHEREAS, the governor's order contained a list of "COVID-19 Essential Services," and

WHEREAS, the workers supporting the retail businesses providing essential services are deemed essential workers, and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2020, Monica Bharel, MD, MPH, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued an Advisory Regarding Face Coverings and Cloth Masks, that stated, *inter alia,* the importance of wearing face coverings or masks where it is difficult to maintain a social distance of six feet from others;

NOW THEREFORE, in the interest of protecting the health of retail essential services employees and the general public in the city of Worcester, I hereby order the following:

(A) All employees of retail businesses providing essential services, including but not limited to grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, home improvement stores, farmers markets and the like shall wear a face covering that covers the employee's mouth and nose when interacting with the public and within six feet of a co-worker.

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER, CITY HALL, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01608
TELEPHONE (508) 799-1175 FAX (508) 799-1208
EMAIL: citymanager@worcesterma.gov

(B) A face covering, for the purpose of this Order may include, but is not limited to, dust masks, scarves, bandanas, or other coverings so long as the person's nose and mouth are covered. This Order does not recommend and discourages the use by the general public of surgical masks or N-95 respirators, which should be left for medical professionals and first responders.

(C) Retail essential services employers are responsible for their employees' compliance with this Order.

(D) Violations of this Order shall be punished in the following manner:

(i) First offense – oral warning
(ii) Second offense – subject to civil citation and fine of up to $100
(iii) Subsequent offense(s) – subject to civil citation and fine of up to $300

(E) This Order may be enforced by civil process, criminal process or by non-criminal disposition as provided in General Laws, Chapter 40, §21D.

(F) The provisions of this Order may be enforced by the Worcester Department of Public Health or authorized agent pursuant to G.L. c. 111, § 30, the Inspectional Services Department, and the Worcester Police Department.

(G) This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the State of Emergency is terminated, whichever occurs first.

ORDERED at City Hall this 14th day of April, 2020, by,

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER, CITY HALL, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01608
TELEPHONE (508) 799-1175 FAX (508) 799-1208
EMAIL: citymanager@worcesterma.gov

Needham Board of Health
Emergency Order re Face Coverings
Public Comments received between 4/24 at 1700 hrs and 4/28 at 1400 hrs

From: Erin Breen <erinlbreen@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 4:12 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Public Comments: Face Covering

Hello,

I understand the proposal requires face masks be worn where social distancing can't be maintained. With everyone at home and out for walks / bike rides on nice days, I find it impossible to keep adequate distance from others regardless of my intentions to do so. My family and I do not venture outside without masks, but encounter many others that have chosen not to wear them.

My family and I are wearing masks in adherence to direction from the CDC and the State to help slow the spread of the virus and protect others. While my family and I do our part, we would expect the same protection to be given to us and the rest of the community.

I implore the town to consider requiring face masks at all times when outside, minimally when utilizing trails in the area like Cutler Park, Town Forest etc. I think it is also imperative to provide some level of public education about the requirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

From: Yasue Keyes <yasuekeyes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Comment re mask requirements

If you are going to require masks, then please provide them for those who cannot afford it.

-----Original Message-----
From: Martha Riquier <martha.riquier@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face coverings

Although most citizens of Needham have shown a willingness to cover their faces with masks of some sort, a mandate to require this will certainly go a long way to be sure this occurs, especially among the younger citizens.

I would suggest that, if this rule is implemented, the town can assure us that there is an ample supply for the town/in the town and that places to buy these masks (for those who cannot make their own) are publicized.

Sent from my iPad

-----Original Message-----
From: DOUG FOX <dougiefox@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face coverings

Hi,

I fully support the mandating of face coverings in all stores and commercial buildings. I was surprised this past week to see restaurant workers not wearing face coverings. And of course there are always lots of customers not wearing them, which puts themselves, customers and store workers at risk.

It doesn't appear that you are proposing the mandate include to all places outside. If that was the case, I do not support mandating masks outside. It is possible in most locations to social distance while outside, making the masks unnecessary.

Thanks for all of your hard work.

Cheers,

Doug
Town Meeting Member Precinct F

DOUG FOX
dougiefox@mac.com
c617-548-3804

-----Original Message-----
From: Tanya Yahoo Email <tanyaphilbin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: No on face masks in businesses

From: daniel.burns@gmail.com <daniel.burns@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 12:15 PM

To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: comment on draft face covering emergency order

Would it be possible to expand on the excerpt quoted below? I support the town's exercise of emergency powers but to the extent practical we should strive to define clearly how those powers are to be used and enforced, as the use of emergency powers should be only be done with utmost seriousness. For example, what is the penalty for a violation? Will the Director be empowering the police with enforcement power? I have a lot of faith in the residents of the town and in our elected and appointed officials to handle this properly, and do not expect this to be a problem, but I feel strongly that emergency powers should not be taken lightly.

Daniel Burns
6 Louart Dr

"To the extent necessary, this Order shall be enforced by the Director of Health & Human Services and others he chooses to empower as agents of the Board of Health."

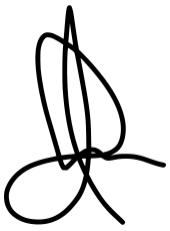
From: John Dubil <johnmdubil@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 12:21 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face Covering Requirement

Hello,

The link to the Zoom information and the draft order does not seem to be functioning.

Many thanks,

John



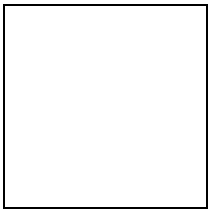
John Dubil
137 Falcon Street
Needham, MA 02492
johnmdubil@mac.com

From: Donna Lynch <donna.lynch@kw.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 12:34 PM

To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: mandatory face masks

I absolutely agree with this order.

Donna Lynch



Donna Lynch, Realtor
The Luxury Home Station
Keller Williams Boston SOUTHWEST
150 West St.
Needham, MA 02494
donna.lynch@kw.com
508-367-5098
donnalynch.kwrealty.com

From: Kate Fitzpatrick <KFitzpatrick@needhamma.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 12:40 PM
To: Timothy McDonald <tmcdonald@needhamma.gov>
Subject: face covering

Hi –

Marianne's comment was that if a business puts up plexiglass partitions and everyone is social distancing that the Plexiglas is better than a mask.

Kate

Kate Fitzpatrick
Town Manager
Town Hall
1471 Highland Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
Tel: 781-455-7500 extension 0
Fax: 781-449-4569

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From: Eileen Baker <eileen@proudmarygifts.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 12:40 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face Masks

Hello,

As a small business in Needham as much as I am in need to open my doors, I am also hesitant because of concerns I have not only for myself, but my employees and customers. I would like to see face masks become a requirement for both customers and workers in a commercial business.

Upon opening we had decided that we were going to ask customers to wear a mask and feel if it is mandated by the town it would be perceived better for us.

We are also going to provide gloves for our customers to put on upon arrival and dispose of upon leaving so that we do not have to worry about germs spreading to our product.

Last we will also provide hand sanitizer for after they dispose of the gloves and before touching the door handle.

I hope this input helps with your decision regarding this matter.

Be safe,
Eileen Baker

--
Eileen Baker
Proud Mary Gifts
339-777-5744
eileen@proudmarygifts.com

From: Chris Mooney <cjmooney@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 1:09 PM

To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Covid Facemask order

To the Board of Health re: Covid Facemask order

I am against this order. It is unnecessary and at this point most of what is being ordered is already being done and the rest should be personal reasonability and common courtesy. We don't need an overly broad, open ended order. If there are going to be further restrictions imposed it should be coupled with re-opening of businesses.

If you were going to do something like this you should have done it a month ago. The curve has flattened.

Respectfully,

Chris Mooney
Town Meeting Member, Precinct J.
781-726-2857

-----Original Message-----
From: Malathi Echambadi <mechambadi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 2:08 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: No face masks

As a person of color, I have unique problems when walking around in Needham. Just a few days ago a woman was rude to me outside Needham Bank when I was just minding my own business. Please don't make face coverings mandatory. Anyone without a face covering will be attacked by the public. Some people can't afford them or can't get them. It should be up to the discretion of the individual. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----
From: Richard <rick.freedman@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 2:17 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Mandatory masks

Sent from Xfinity Connect Application

From: Laurie DeVries <Laurie.DeVries@sunlife.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Comments on Emergency meeting to discuss face covering

Hi Needham Health Department,
I am against this requirement unless you can offer face masks at each business for people that don't have access and these should be disposable one time use ones. If we don't do that then people will

often just re-use the same one over and over some without washing and the risk of getting the virus will be greater as people have to handle these masks that are collecting coronavirus droplets!
I can be reached for comment at 508-561-1826
Laurie DeVries
876 Central Ave
Needham, AM 02492

Laurie Comer DeVries | Business Systems Analyst | Data Solutions
P: 781-416-3174 (Ext. (303) 3174) **C:** 508-561-1826 | **E:** laurie.devries@sunlife.com

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From: Si Si N. Goneconto <snyunt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Cc: Christina Mathews <csmathews@gmail.com>
Subject: Great news about facial coverings

Hello

Thanks for being at work and taking care of us all. I had drafted a letter on Friday wanting to know when we would join the slew of towns that would require mask coverings in public spaces to protect all of us so I'm so glad to hear that this is going into effect in Needham, albeit I wish it had been done sooner. A group of women from First Parish Needham and I have been making cloth masks like so many many others in town for the last month or so - it is wonderful that we have hordes o people who are helping to keep us all safe.

May we be bold enough to make the best healthcare decisions for all of us. Thank you for all that you do and all that you are.

Be Well and Laugh Often,
George and Si Si

From: Yasue Keyes <yasuekeyes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Mask policy comment

Please consider requiring it only in areas where social distancing not possible, not on solitary walks/runs.

-----Original Message-----
From: James McDonald <oaksquare@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face Covering/ Mask

I am AGAINST MANDATING ANY TYPE OF FACIAL MASK OR COVERING.

Mask wearing should be totally optional.
There is no way to ensure that a mask is free of ANY TYPE OF GERMS AND OR VIRUSES each time it is worn.
Repeated mask wearing of unsterile cloth or mask increases risk of other illnesses, infection or viruses, unless you are cleaning it in an industrial autoclave daily.

In addition, Mandatory mask wearing is an infringement on personal freedoms.

Barbara McDonald
Needham, Ma

-----Original Message-----
From: Matt Borrelli <mborrelli@borrellilegal.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 3:32 PM
To: Timothy McDonald <tmcdonald@needhamma.gov>
Cc: Kate Fitzpatrick <KFitzpatrick@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Masks

Hi Tim. As you have probably heard, I am concerned about the latest proposed mask restrictions and I have heard from some residents today also voicing displeasure. While well intentioned, I would prefer to follow the guidance of the Governor and at the minimum defer action on this proposal for a week until we have further State guidance. It is going to be difficult to ease any regulations once we start reopening again and I am also concerned with compliance enforcement and shaming.

As a Town we can strongly suggest that businesses follow a mask wearing protocol by offering signs to them similar to the one I have attached that is present at the Dover Market. Our markets are already in self compliance as well. Ultimately, I believe it is up to the business owner/property manager to make these decisions and looking at the lack of mandate, I believe Governor Baker feels this way as well. His directive of staying 6' apart or wearing a mask is reasonable; however, these regulations state that masks must be worn even with that separation. I think it is an overreach and from what I have seen, self compliance is working and enforcement would be difficult.

As far as the outdoor restrictions, I can see some restrictions for jobs where maintaining 6' is next to impossible (roofing) but not for landscaping or other jobs where 6' is easily achievable. Thank you.

Matt

From: Heidi Frail <heidi.frail@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 3:49 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Regulating use of face masks

Hello,

Please receive this comment in support of requiring face masks in local business, town building etc. Face masks have been shown to reduce transmission of Covid-19 and requiring their use for this purpose will support the most timely reopening of our local businesses.

I urge the Select Board to require masks for the general public, and further, also to require social distancing measures implemented at all businesses open now and in the future.

Heidi Frail
29 Powers St

-----Original Message-----
From: Stephanie Goodrow <sgoodrow03@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face covering

Hello,
I am a resident of Needham and I do not want to be forced to wear a mask if I choose not to, in or outside of stores around town.

Thank you,
Stephanie g.
Sent from my iPhone

From: Erin Moochnick <iugerm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face Covering Requirement

HI,

Please, please make it mandatory to wear masks (shoppers) inside the stores throughout the Needham area.

Thank you. Regards, Erin Moochnick

From: Scott Aronson <s_aronson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Mask

Feel free to pass this order for people going into Needham Businesses to wear Protectives (for themselves, employees their families). Thank you for your work.

Stay safe and Healthy!
We are available for emergency appointments. Telehealth visits are easy and available as well. Please call with questions.

Regards,

Dr. Scott Aronson

Aronson Footcare
"Celebrating 20 Years"
1017 Turnpike Street, Suite 12B
Canton, MA 02031
781-344-1440

From: Greg Reibman <greibman@nnchamber.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Feedback on face covering rules

Dear Needham Health Department:

The Newton-Needham Regional Chamber appreciates the desire to keep our business owners, employees and customers safe by requiring face coverings in all places of business. We support the proposed regulation.

Greg Reibman
he/him/his

President
Newton-Needham Regional Chamber
Keep in touch. Just don't touch.

281 Needham Street
Newton, MA 02461
617-244-1688

Serving Greater Boston's inner western suburbs through advocacy, education and networking.

From: Amy Helfer <amy.helfer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face covering

I am in favor of requiring face coverings in Needham stores and businesses. If they are available, it would be great to have masks available for those who need one.

-----Original Message-----
From: Lori Shaer <lshaer@me.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:44 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face coverings

Hi. I feel the Town of Needham should mandate cloth face coverings in business, work site, and government buildings. It's the responsible thing to do to limit the spread and COVID-19 and I do not see any down sides other than people acquiring face masks which should not be difficult to do. If people cannot afford face masks, the Town of Needham or the Health Dept. should give them out.

Thank you.

Lori Shaer
Bridle Trail Road

From: Peggy Gassman <gassman6@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:46 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face masks

This is being written as a request to mandate facemasks be warm when entering businesses in the town of Needham. I am highly medically compromised and will need to remain in quarantine until there is a vaccine. I will be able to eventually go to the bank or market if others are wearing masks.
Thank you for your consideration.
Peggy Gassman
Resident of Needham since 1977.

-----Original Message-----
From: Wendy Perlman <bostonperl@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:46 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face Coverings

I strongly support this requirement. There is enough evidence now to show that if everyone wears face masks inside, there is a reduction in COVID transmission.
I would also like to see masks required of construction workers who are working in our neighborhood in close proximity to neighbors' houses, lawns, and sidewalks.
I would hope that the town will also recommend that people walking outside through the town center and on walking paths will all wear face masks. With warmer weather, many more people will be outside and it will be more difficult to maintain social distancing.

Wendy Perlman and Peter Antoszyk
Birds Hill Ave. Needham

-----Original Message-----
From: Daryl Glazer <dfglazer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:47 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face coverings

Yes to mandating face coverings

Sent from my iPad

From: june atkind <june.npa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: mandate

I agree with the plan to mandate face coverings. However, I have observed people relaxing social distancing because they are feeling protected by the face masks, so would like to see the mandate paired with a very strong message about the ongoing importance of social distancing.

June Atkind, LICSW
Needham Psychotherapy Associates
992 Great Plain Ave, Suite 22
Needham, MA 02492

phone 781-449-4779
fax 781-449-3134

june.atkind@npapsych.com
june.npa@gmail.com
www.mindfulnessbasedstrategies.com
www.npaonline.com

For mindfulness-based strategies for coping with COVID-19 go to: www.mindfulnessbasedstrategies.com. and click on blog.

-----Original Message-----
From: Sharon Margulies <sharon.s.margulies@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face covering

My husband and I are both physicians and would welcome a town mandate requiring masks for the foreseeable future.
Thank you,
Sharon Margulies

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----
From: Sandy Jacobs <sandyjacobs@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Masks

We support a mandate for masks in Needham stores and businesses, ideally if the town also can provide an avenue to attain masks for those who have not acquired them on their own.
Sandy Jacobs and Marc Friedman

Sent from my iPhone

From: Richard Shanler <rshanler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:10 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face coverings meeting.

First we are in support of face coverings where you may come in close contact with other people. I would like to see them required also at Cutler Park. Sunday we were walking there and many people had no face masks and some didn't even care about social distancing. Three young boys on bicycles going fast didn't have them and the first one going buy me coming from behind hit my arm going by me. No parents in my sight to complain too. If you can add this to your list of places that would be appreciated.
Stay safe,
Richard Shanler
51 George Aggott Road
Needham, MA 02492

From: Deni Budd <deni429@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Needham face masks for businesses

Please make a town mandate that Needham stores and business would require people to wear face coverings for at least the near future.

Thank you,

Deni Budd
Needham resident

From: Charles Wilson <charlesadamwilson@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:13 PM

To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face Coverings in Stores and Businesses

To whom it may concern:

I find it critically important not only to one's health, but more importantly to the health of others, that it be made mandatory that all workers and shoppers in the town of Needham be obligated to wear a face covering in any business or store in the town of Needham. If a face covering is not worn, it is mandatory that the store or business owner ask the shopper to leave or have the Needham Police escort the person from the premises.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

CW

Sent from my iPhone

From: Stephen McKnight <stephenmcknight@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: RE: Public Health Emergency Order Mandating Face Coverings

To Health Department:

I can support the requirement for the use of face masks inside stores, multifamily residences, and take-out establishments. But I would not like to be required to use a mask outside. The sidewalks in Needham are not so crowded as to compromise social distancing, and trails in Needham open spaces (Town Forest, Ridge Hill Reservation) are even less crowded. I believe that with the amount of fresh air and sunlight (known to be toxic to viruses) the chances of person-to-person transmission for people maintaining a six-foot social distance is very small and making any restrictions on outdoor use in Needham would not be an effective measure against COVID-19. I also do not feel that masks should be required for bicycling.

In short, requirement for masks inside any commercial establishment or multi-unit residence are OK with me as long as the use of masks is not required while outside. It appears that this is consistent with the draft order as it appears on the Health Department website.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen McKnight
100 Rosemary Way #336
Needham Heights, MA 02494

From: Stephanie Wallace <stephaniewallace99@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Mandated Face Coverings in Stores/Businesses

I wholeheartedly support this idea.

Thank you,
Stephanie Wallace

-----Original Message-----
From: Heather Simmons <hjsimmons@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:18 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Cc: Heather Simmons <heather@simonza.com>
Subject: Face masks

I am writing in regards to the Needham face mask initiative. Wearing face masks by both employees and customers has been clinically proven to reduce the risk of spreading COVID19. For the safety of everyone, it is my hope that the town of Needham will enforce the proper wearing of face masks by everyone within stores.

I also hope that the town will enforce the use of masks within the town center and Needham Heights when walking outside where others will be in close proximity. Additionally I believe if the preservations and parks like Ridge Hill and the Rail Trail are to remain open for public use that people will be required to wear masks. I have been in Ridge Hill and the when people are passing on the trails, it is impossible to keep at least 6 feet apart. Several times people were within two feet of me when passing, and they were not always wearing face masks.

I believe there is a strong need for educating people on how to properly wear a face mask. Not properly wearing a mask can defeat the purpose of a mask altogether. A postal worker in the Needham post office was wearing a mask without mask covering her nose. I have seen this same improper use in Walgreens as well, on a pharmacist.

Finally, please send out some sort of town notification on not littering our streets and parking lots with masks and gloves. This is hazardous waste and it is unfair for store clerks to assume responsibility for cleaning said waste. It is just as easy, and safer, to leave gloves on the floor of your car and to dispose of at home, where one can wash their hands after.

Thank you for your time,

Heather Simmons
781-444-2501

-----Original Message-----
From: Seth Altman <Seth.Altman@Oracle.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Mask comments

We are in favor of requiring mask use as broadly as possible. For folks when they leave their property, in stores, etc. This is happening in towns and cities all around us, and is a key step to keeping people safe and healthy.

Seth Altman & Pyng Lin
70 Gatewood Drive
Needham, MA 02492
617-543-7892

From: Bruce Howell <bruce.howell@carroll.org>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Cc: Tatiana Swanson <tswanson@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Comment on proposed mandatory cloth facemasks in Needham

Dear Board of Health Members:

While I do not in any way object to the mandatory requirement that all Needham residents might be required to wear a cloth facemask when out in public at certain locations, I do have a concern about acquiring such masks.

I am blind, and my wife has dementia. How would we obtain the required facemasks? Is this something that the Board of Health might be able to help with, or how would you suggest we obtain them? I think that if the Town is going to require their use, some method for assisting with their distribution to persons who cannot drive, or with disabilities should be considered as a piece of enacting such an ordinance.

Thank you for giving this your consideration. I appreciate everything the Town is doing right now, and wholeheartedly support the various social distancing guidelines, but I worry that some procedures are placing a burden on persons with disabilities that aren't fully appreciated. Whether it's the assumption that we can, or have, facemasks, or that any COVID19 testing site requires that a person drive to it in a personal vehicle, some types of accommodations need to be considered for those of us who cannot as easily follow such procedures.

Respectfully yours,

Bruce Howell
99 Maple Street

Needham, MA 02492
Cell: 781-636-8465

Bruce A. Howell
Accessibility Services Manager
The Carroll Center for the Blind
770 Centre Street
Newton, MA 02458
Phone: 617-969-6200, ext. 210
Fax: 617-969-6204
Email: bruce.howell@carroll.org

From: Noah Pearlstein <noahp811@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face mask policy

I believe people SHOULD be required to wear face masks in and around any of the Needham businesses, public buildings etc or anywhere else in the Town that the Board of Health recommends to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Noah Pearlstein Richard road

-----Original Message-----
From: Charlene Pirner <thepirners@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:33 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Mandate of masks

As a resident and dentist, who wears masks daily at work, I feel it is vital for EVERYONE to wear masks when entering stores and businesses. It is in those locations where there is the most people gathering and is at highest risk of cross contamination. The sooner everyone wears a mask, the sooner we can beat this pandemic. For anyone who doesn't have a mask they just need to ask. There are countless residents making masks and giving them away for free. So that should not be the limiting factor to not wear a mask.

Thank you.
Concerned Needham Resident

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----
From: Edward Zaval <edwardzaval@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:35 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Requiring masks within stores

Yes, we think face coverings should be mandatory.

Many places serving food are allowing people to choose to either (1) enter the store and wait for their order or (2) utilize roadside pickup. I do the latter, as social distancing can be quite difficult when several people are waiting inside a very small area to receive their food. Unless every store can switch to car/curbside pickup (which is not practical for many stores that operate on main streets), it would be best to have the extra level of protection by requiring all those in the store to be wearing a mask.

I note that most staff members are wearing masks already... the problem seems to be those patrons who are entering the stores physical space to pick up their food order.

Sent from my iPad

From: lsudellesq@aol.com <lsudellesq@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:38 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face coverings in businesses in Needham

I am in favor of requiring customers and employees in stores and businesses to wear face masks.

Thank you,
Laurie Udell

From: Cheryl Lekousi <clekousi@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:39 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Masks in public

I am in full support of wearing masks in public and would also like to see posters explaining best use posted around town and on the Town Face book site.

Thank you for taking on this controversial subject.

Cheryl

Cheryl Lekousi
Tiny Hearts Playgroup
clekousi@comcast.net

-----Original Message-----
From: Beckterry <beckterry@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:51 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Please require face covering

I strongly support face coverings in public to help continue to flatten the curve and help us get back to normal. I saw a woman today in CVS and Trader Joe's with no face covering and blowing her nose then exchanging money with the same hand. There are still people not taking this seriously and at least if she had her face covered it may have reminded her not to do that.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----
From: Dan Goldberg <dlgold@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Masks

Should the order have an age attached
In many communities they are using two as An appropriate age

Dan Goldberg

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----
From: Kathleen Butters <kbutters418@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:14 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Masks

Yes in stores: no outside.

From: Ella Murphy <ella.m.murphy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:18 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Re: Emergency order face masks

As a resident I am really happy to see that Needham is taking action on this. Just wish it had been sooner. People don't have the right to put other people's health in jeopardy, especially the health of those who are vulnerable to this disease. Thank you!!

-----Original Message-----
From: Michelle Zaff <michelle.zaff@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:29 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face masks

Hi,

We believe that face masks should be required in all Needham stores and businesses to mInimize risk and promote the health and safety of workers and patrons, in accordance with MA state recommendations and in line with other MA towns.

Best,
Michelle

From: Kara Holmquist <kara.holmquist@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:30 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Cloth face covering order

I just want to relay my family's support for the Emergency Order/Regulation requiring the use of cloth face coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Kara Holmquist
286 Rosemary Street

-----Original Message-----
From: Sabdalian <ssabda@rcn.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:40 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face masks

Please make wearing face masks in all Needham businesses mandatory. And whenever being a minimum of 6 feet away from another person is not possible.
Thank you.
Susan Abdalian
21 Lee Rd

Sent from my iPhone

From: Joan E. Feeney <jjfeeney@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:47 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: face masks

good evening,
I am in support of folks wearing face masks during this pandemic.
however the verbiage needs to be edited for not all masks are made of cloth.
most manufactured masks are not cloth.

thank you.

Joan Feeney

From: Franklin Gold <franklin.gold@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:57 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Public Health Emergency Order Mandating Face Coverings

- Points #1 and #2 are redundant. Restaurants are businesses.
- What about businesses that are conducted from individual's homes? Are they businesses or single unit private residences?
- How does this order apply to dentists and doctors? As vaguely worded now, dental patients are required to wear a mask.
- Why is #6 targeted at only ice cream trucks? Why not all mobile food provision?
- How does Item #5 differ from the Commonwealth's rules?
- This order should be aligned with actions / restrictions coming from the Commonwealth. If the Commonwealth establishes rules / timetables for opening restaurants, it should not require another Board of Health meeting to change the town's rules.

Franklin Gold
120 Brookside Road
Needham, MA 02492

-----Original Message-----
From: Lynn Samuels <lynn_samuels@tjx.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:59 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face Masks

We are in support of requiring face masks in Needham.

Lynn & Greg Signer.
63 Crescent Rd
Needham. MA 0294

Sent from my iPhone📱

-----Original Message-----
From: Sara Smith <sarajanesmith@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:59 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face masks

YES, the town if Needham should mandate the wearing of face coverings in stores and businesses in Needham.

Sara Smith

Sent from Sara's iPhone

From: sean taylor <seandtaylor99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 7:01 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Emergency Order/Regulation requiring the use of cloth face coverings

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am completely in favor of the use of masks in situations where social distancing is difficult or impossible, and to help protect those working in essential jobs, however I have a few questions.

1) Must they specifically be cloth ? Is a disposable dust mask like the one below not acceptable ? I am concerned that the board may adopt too narrow a definition of masks.
https://www.homedepot.com/p/KC-Professional-Disposable-Multi-Purpose-Dust-Mask-with-Metal-Nose-Piece-5-Pack-SP98805/312776168

2) Many other countries are distributing masks to citizens. It's nearly impossible to buy masks right now as an average citizen - the supply chain is disrupted due to demand. A scarf, bandana or neck gaiter might be better than nothing but it would be great if the state would consider procuring and distributing masks as is done in parts of Europe and Asia, particularly if this situation continues into warmer weather.

Sincerely

Sean Taylor, 139 Grant Street. 02492

From: Joshua Small <josh_small@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:58 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face masks question

I think that masks should be mandated in all indoor spaces except ones own residence. The mandate should be for any mask, not just closed masks, as written in the press release.

Thanks,
Joshua Small, MD
27 Richard Road

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From: Gail Lustig <gailslustig@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 7:21 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: comments on requiring face coverings in public buildings

Hello,

I think it's a great discussion to have but i am against having a mandate for this. It is great to suggest this to those who want to wear a mask. And everyone should wear them when in buildings.

I am concerned with how this could be enacted. What if someone isn't wearing a mask and goes into a store. Are they ejecte? Are the police called? Is it a fine?

At this time I don't feel it's a good use of our law enforcement personnel.

A strongly worded recommendation would be my position.

Thank you,
Gail Lustig

-----Original Message-----
From: Heather Hampf <hhampf@me.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:23 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face coverings

Is there a way to say the regulation will be in effect for 60 days and then have a means to extend it? It feels too authoritarian to have it as legislation with no end date.

From: Barry Pollack <barryspollack@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:29 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Comment on Proposed Order

To Needham Board of Health:
I applaud efforts to contain the spread of this awful virus that has shaken our community, the state, our country and the world.
Around my own block, I have become known as the adult reminding other parents to watch their kids closely to enforce proper social distancing.
That said, the Proposed Order looks haphazardly drafted. The drafting issues could cause interpretation questions and enforcement problems. As a result, I object to the present language unless the flaws are fixed to ensure enforceability, to prevent constitutional problems, and to avoid conflicts with state and

federal agency requirements, To avoid these issues, for now, the Proposed Order should simply be changed to an Advisory, for several reasons.

First, Paragraphs 1 , 2 and 3 are redundant and inconsistent. The phrase "work site" is not defined and could be misinterpreted to include a walk along any public property when some maintenance person might be hundreds of yards away. Also, Paragraph 1 requires a cloth face covering of certain types, while Paragraphs 2 and 3 (and others) require merely any sort of "face covering" of whatever material. The term "interacting with the public" is not defined and could conceivably reach responsible employers who have limited business to phone calls and outdoors at a distance of more than 6' from customers, even when just fielding a phone call indoors. The Board of Health has also not provided science to support the use of just any face covering let alone just any fabric face covering, making the Proposed Order both potentially ineffective and overly broad.

Second, a review of the Massachusetts statute and regulations cited in the Proposed Order suggest that other actions by the Board of Health would be more likely enforceable than this form. For instance, the statute allows the Board of Health to take certain steps when limiting the use of common cups and towels, but nothing about masks. The Proposed Order does not cite to any science for limiting the materials used in the mask, or for allowing all the various alternatives for the mask. In other words, the Proposed Order does not do enough and clearly needs more science to support the right activities not just a rash or hasty action.

Third, Paragraph 5(c) intrudes on the Governor's powers to ensure essential services, by ambiguously requiring the closure of portions of even those businesses that have been deemed essential.

Fourth, the top of the third page begins with unnumbered paragraphs, making it difficult to interpret whether they apply only to the immediately preceding numbered paragraph. Assuming they are meant to be self-standing, though unnumbered, they contain other flaws. For instance, the word "children" is not defined. A Webster's or other customary dictionary definition of children means any son or daughter. If you mean minor children, then the Proposed Order should say so to ensure enforceability and to clarify the reach for any equal protection issues. Furthermore, there is a subjective exception for those with breathing problems when wearing face coverings, without stating what sort of face covering has to be the source of such a problem. In addition, there is no science making clear that the age of 2 is the proper and safest cutoff. More information seems needed.

Fifth, there is inadequate disclosure of any penalty or hearing for non-compliance. The pertinent statutes and regs suggest a process by which additional orders would ensue leading to a hearing. Given the unconventional aspects of this Proposed Order, particularly without citing to reliable science, full notice should be given of the availability and limitations on penalties.

Sixth, the Proposed Order seems to predict confrontations about this topic among community members. Specifically, the Proposed Order states: "Residents should not take it upon themselves to approach people in violation of this order" and "Residents are urged to focus solely on their personal compliance with this order." The "should not" language appears mandatory. This prohibition or warning, in violation of the First Amendment, could discourage residents from educating other residents properly, but I do understand the concerns that fear has caused folks to take unduly confrontational positions at times that could lead to significant incidents contrary to public safety. Nevertheless, I have peacefully and properly approached neighbors (while remaining at least 6' away), to educate them about their minor children's need for maintaining social distancing. We do not want to discourage that sort of helpful approach by our residents.

All of these problems can be mitigated by making the Proposed Order an Advisory, at least until fixed and more scientifically reliable information becomes available to protect our neighbors to the fullest extent possible with enforceable rather than problematic and unduly vague language. Using a strong-worded "Advisory" can overcome these problems, have important impact and be reviewed for

effectiveness while language is developed in a thoughtful manner that would better protect our town as needed.
Again, I applaud the efforts to protect our community and want the efforts to be taken in effective ways to limit the spread of this awful virus that has so impacted our community and world.
Sincerely
Barry Pollack

From: Kristen Gosselin <kcgosselin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:54 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: face masks

I am a Needham resident.
Yes I feel strongly that we should be required to wear face masks in stores and other public places in Needham.
Thank you,
Kristen

From: James Blackwell <windshiregroup@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:11 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face masks

Hi

These should be mandatory in public and private businesses that the public utilizes. An important part of opening up our economy asap!!!!

Thanks
James

From: Pamela Fisher <pamela.fisher@coordinators.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:27 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Mandate to wear Face Coverings in Needham businesses

I am writing in my support of the mandate for everyone to wear masks or other cloth face coverings in all businesses in Needham in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you.
Pam Fisher

From: Elizabeth Kaponya <liz.kaponya@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:47 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face Masks Regulation

As a healthcare professional, I am all in for an Emergency Order /Regulation to require the wearing of face masks (which can be home made or professional) by employees and customers of businesses in buildings.

I have been wearing a face mask and gloves for several weeks already when I run my errands - at first I was a real oddity - now it is the norm. Unfortunately, I have noticed that the few people who don't wear face coverings at the supermarket and CVS - are invariably the ones who flagrantly violate Social Distancing... So that is why an Emergency Regulation is needed.

I think that face coverings outdoors should be optional - to be reevaluated if there are too many social distancing complaints.

Thank you for keeping us safe and healthy,

Elizabeth Kaponya
27 Highland Terrace
TMM - J

From: T. Feygin <tamarumka@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:30 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Regulation regarding face coverings

Dear Board of Health,

We strongly oppose regulation for face coverings in public in our town. This regulation would need to be enforced which would create an enforcement burden on our police and a backlash in the community as well as reduce tourism.

We believe in the consideration and good will of Needhamites and visitors who want to protect themselves and others and the business acumen of proprietors who are driven to create safe and welcoming environment for their customers.

Town of Needham is welcome to post advisories but please don't make it mandatory to wear face coverings.

Sincerely,

Tamara & David Feygin
76 Brookline St,
Needham, MA 02492

From: Greg Kochaniak <greg@kochaniak.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:42 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Please no mandatory face masks

Masks gather germs and viruses from air, are more danger than benefit to the wearers. They may also cause hypoxia in people with health problems like sleep apnea, asthma etc. They are only a political statements, meant to scare people even more into blind obedience, otherwise no benefit, only a nuisance and often additional danger. Current distancing orders are more than enough.

Greg Kochaniak
24 Rivard Rd, Needham, MA 02492

From: Lee Tran <Lee.Tran@raveis.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:51 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face coverings

Thanks for accepting comments, I am in favor of an order to wear masks as outlined, at least temporarily.

I was wondering why restaurant employees, especially those preparing food, are not included in the list?

Thanks, take care, Lee Tran

_____

Ms. Lee Harkins Tran, REALTOR®

Sales, Rentals, Property Management &

Senior Corporate~International Relocations Agent
WILLIAM RAVEIS REAL ESTATE

15 West Central St.

Natick, MA 01760

Cell: ***781-856-7191***

Office: ***508-655-4141***

Fax: ***508-655- 4692***
lee.tran@raveis.com
www.raveis.com/agent/LeeTran/6064

Do not wire funds without contacting intended recipient to confirm wiring instructions first,

email confirmations alone may not provide sufficient security. Email correspondence does not

constitute acceptance of, or create, a binding contract in the absence of a fully signed contract.

From: Masha Sherman <mashasherman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:56 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Oppose to regulations of face covering.

Dear Board of Health,

We strongly oppose regulation for face coverings in public in our town. This regulation would need to be enforced which would create an enforcement burden on our police and a backlash in the community as well as reduce tourism.

We believe in the consideration and good will of Needhamites and visitors who want to protect themselves and others and the business acumen of proprietors who are driven to create safe and welcoming environment for their customers.

Town of Needham is welcome to post advisories but please don't make it mandatory to wear face coverings.

Sincerely,

Best regards,

~ Masha Sherman

Sent from my iPhone - please forgive typos and brevity

From: victoria doroshenko <victoria.doroshenko@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 11:05 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face covering

Dear Board of Health,

We strongly oppose regulation for face coverings in public in our town. This regulation would need to be enforced which would create an enforcement burden on our police and a backlash in the community.

We believe in the consideration and good will of Needhamites and visitors who want to protect themselves and others and the business acumen of proprietors who are driven to create safe and welcoming environment for their customers.

Town of Needham is welcome to post advisories but please don't make it mandatory to wear face coverings.

Sincerely,
Doroshenko Family
19 Beech St

From: Melissa Coppola <melissa@coppolamanagement.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 11:37 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Masks

Hi
I ask that you please require masks for everyone's safety. There is no reason not to. Plenty of people are making them free for Needham's neighbors. You have a responsibility to keep us safe and you need to enforce CDC's recommendations for those who aren't taking proper precautions. Thank you for your time.

Best,

Melissa C. Hegarty
Vice President
Coppola Realty Management Svs. Inc.

49 Worthington Street #9
Boston, Mass. 02120
Office: (617) 566-2713
Cell: (617) 593-0211
www.coppolamanagement.com

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----
From: Vivianandmatt <vivianandmatt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:30 AM
To: Timothy McDonald <tmcdonald@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Question for the zoom meeting

Will there be guidance/regulations on social distancing/ coverings in essential business?

Will there be fines assessed if face covering are not in place?

From: Tim Cannistraro <tim.cannistraro@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 4:50 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face Coverings

To the Board of Health,

I hope you take the time to read my letter as it addresses my concerns with the Order that you propose.

Thank you for your service,
Timothy Cannistraro

Sent from my iPhone

PLEASE SEE 5-page letter at end of packet

From: Jay Spencer <jay@frenchpressbakery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 6:46 AM

To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face Covering - Public Comment

Dear Board of Health,

This written statement from French Press Bakery & Cafe is in support of your resolution for mandatory face coverings.

We closed our cafe on Sunday, March 15, 2020, in response to Covid-19. Many folks have said that we did not have to close which is true. However, I decided to close for the health and safety of our employees and guests. Predominantly we had a lot of people congregating in the cafe for long periods of time when the initial social distancing order was put in place. Also, we had an unusually high level of both mature people and younger adults which caused alarm. I felt it was better to allow the societal acceptance of the controls to take place rather than being a single enforcer.

On Thursday, April 2, 2020, we reopened the cafe with contactless curbside pickup and limited delivery. At that time and presently, we are not allowing patrons to enter the cafe as some individuals in town wear face coverings, and others do not. Since we reopened we have procured face masks for our staff and have asked them to use them in addition to other health and safety precautions. If you must enter a grocery store with a face covering, why should any other essential establishment or business that reopens after the state mandatory shut-down be different?

We strongly support a resolution to require all individuals to wear a face-covering at least until July or deemed appropriate by other statistics that indicate a risk of reinfection or second wave diminished. This is for the well-being of our employees, guests, and the future of our community.

Kind regards,

Jay Spencer
Proprietor

French Press Bakery & Cafe
74 Chapel Street
Needham, MA 02492

From: Joseph Sands <joensands@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:08 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: face masks

Where can I get the face mask?

From: Debra Maibor <debbie.maibor@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:39 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Cc: dmaiborslp@gmail.com
Subject: face masks! Yes!

YES!!! ABSOLUTELY!!!! EVERYONE IN NEEDHAM OR COMING INTO NEEDHAM should wear a mask AT ALL TIMES!!!!! EVERYONE! (EVEN PEOPLE JUST GOING OUT IN THEIR BACKYARDS OR FOR A WALK OR FOR A BIKE RIDE!) Why should only some people be required to wear them? Makes no sense at all! It's easy to spread and can be non-symptomatic! EVERYONE!

And now to an ESSENTIAL point: NEEDHAM SHOULD PROVIDE (SEVERAL) FACE MASKS TO EVERYONE BECAUSE SOME OF US DON'T SEW, OR DON'T HAVE $100.00 (OR $50000!!!) TO PAY FOR 5 MASKS ON THE INTERNET!!! PLEASE HELP US STAY SAFE!

Thank you,
Debra Maibor

From: Nick Hill <nickhill1@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 8:01 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Emergency Order on Face Masks

Dear Board of Health Members,

I support the intention behind the proposed Emergency Order regarding face masks and applaud the Board of Health's desire to take action.

However, I'm a bit puzzled as to the requirement that it be a cloth face mask. A properly fitted paper or fiber mask is quite effective. Such as mask would not meet the standards of the proposed regulation, while a loose cloth bandana or scarf would. Although high-quality cloth masks are available by mail, many of us will not have them on-hand by the proposed April 29th start date of the regulation. I would prefer to wear a high-quality paper mask than a bandana.

I hope you will change the phrase "cloth mask" to "mask".

Thank you,

John Nicholas Hill
7 Needhamdale Road
Needham MA 02492

-----Original Message-----
From: Robin Brodsky <robinbrodsky@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 8:17 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face covering requirement

I am writing regarding the face covering requirement that the BOH is considering. Specifically, I do NOT agree with requiring people in residential complexes to wear masks!!! First off, it is absolutely impossible to enforce. Second, requiring someone to wear a mask when doing basic things such as going to/from their car in the garage, walking outside to take a walk, walking into a building to grab their mail, walking trash or recycling to a trash chute, etc is ridiculous! I live in a large building where I NEVER encounter other people while doing any of these things! Why infringe upon people's lives in this way? Many residents who feel that they are at risk already personally do what they need to. Allow people in residences the ability to live their lives!!! We have had at least one COVID case in our building, and, to my knowledge, the virus hasn't run rampant through the building!

If the BOH puts something like this in place for residential buildings, it will create chaos amongst neighbors. Some people will comply and others will not comply. It will cause chaos where we live which is the final place of respite that people have during this pandemic! If you want to require masks in public, fine. But leave residential buildings out of it! You aren't regulating everyone else's homes, so don't do it for ours!!! Our building requires anyone looking at units to wear a mask and they advise, but do NOT require residents to. That's enough. Please stop this madness! This emergency order far overreaches town authority and personal freedom.

I implore you to recognize that this requirement in residential complexes is unenforceable and therefore, pointless, and it is an unfair imposition on residents of buildings. Thus, there is no reason to make this a requirement. If you want to issue an advisory - like the one the state has already issued - fine. But don't try to overexert the Town's reach by impacting people in the last respite that they have during this pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Brodsky
Resident at Charles River Landing, one of the largest residential buildings in Needham

---

-----Original Message-----
From: Christine Mawhinney <cazmawhinney@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 8:18 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Masks

Please do NOT make them mandatory every where. In stores, yes if you must. But walking or exercising? No.

Those who wear glasses can't see well with them.

It’s hard to breathe in them.

They look scary to kids.

Hearing impaired can’t read lips.

We have to stop living in fear.

If you feel compelled to put this kind of law in place, please no longer than 2 weeks. Let the testing take place and let’s move on.

-----Original Message-----
From: Paul Abdalian <pabdalian@rcn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 8:42 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face masks

Please make it mandatory for everyone in the town of Needham to wear face masks when either outside or operating a business where the public enters. Thank you Sent from my iPhone

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-----Original Message-----
From: Aaron Toffler <aaron.toffler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 9:23 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Required masks

In my opinion, the town should require that masks be worn in all public spaces.

Thank you.

Aaron Toffler

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----
From: smrcpa@gmail.com <smrcpa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 9:26 AM

To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face Masks

Will this apply to residents of multi family housing when in public spaces with in the building?

Sent from my iPhone
Please excuse typographic errors and the brevity of the message

---

From: Michele Busby <busby.michele@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Mask Wearing

I live in Needham and would like to register the following comments on masks:

The proposed standards, as I am reading them, do not go far enough. Cambridge and Sommerville have mandated masks be worn whenever anyone over the age of 5 leaves the house, including exercising on sidewalks. These restrictions are consistent with the CDC recommendations.

While we are not a city, the sidewalks and streets in our neighborhoods become clogged with kids and adults when the weather is good, making it as difficult to maintain six feet of distance here as it is in Cambridge.

This leads to parents continuously shouting at kids to move six feet away from one another. None of the kids or shouting parents are wearing masks, which makes it difficult for any one parent to tell their kid to wear a mask. While masks cannot replace distance, they do ameliorate some transmission when distancing is impossible. The alternative is to forbid children from going outside, which is very harmful to their mental health.

Teens are also difficult to control, and masks would be a good physical reminder to them to practice social distancing.

I am also concerned about the landscape workers in our town. While they can stay six feet away from one another outside, I have seen them piling into cabs of pickup trucks, unprotected, to move from one job to another. This makes them extremely vulnerable to transmission between coworkers, many of whom live in hard hit areas.

I would hope that the restrictions would make clear that vehicles transporting groups of people between jobs is also a workplace.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Michele Busby, PhD

From: Donna Vello <donna.vello@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Order to wear a mask during coronavirus

Hello,

I've heard that a mask requirement is to go into effect on 4/29. We have masks to wear and are happy to wear them, but they are not cloth masks as I think the ordinance reads.

"Members of the public entering any business, work site, or government building must wear a cloth face covering, such as a fabric mask, scarf or bandana, over their nose and mouth."

Can we assume that you mean a mask of any kind? We have the blue masks, but they are not cloth.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Best,

Donna Vello
141 Hawthorn Ave
Needham, MA 02492

From: Artie Crocker <artie.crocker@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 9:37 AM

To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Regarding Facemask ordinance!

Dear Board of Health Members,

I support the intention behind the proposed Emergency Order regarding face masks and applaud the Board of Health's desire to take action.

However, I'm a bit puzzled as to the requirement that it be a cloth face mask. A properly fitted paper or fiber mask is quite effective. Such as mask would not meet the standards of the proposed regulation, while a loose cloth bandana or scarf would. Though I have a nice fitting cloth mask many people do not and I would think a paper or fiber mask would be acceptable.

I hope you will change the phrase "cloth mask" to "mask".

Thank you,

Artie Crocker

17 Fairlawn St, Needham, MA 02492

-----Original Message-----
From: caroline keropei <keropei@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10:05 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Mandatory mask wearing order

Hi,

Thank you for considering the implementation of mandatory mask wearing within needham. I strongly support this order especially since a good portion of positive covid19 patients are asymptomatic. I wonder how this will be enforced though. My concern is those who believe in wearing a mask will protect them and others probably will wear them regardless of this order. Those who don't believe in wearing a mask may not follow the order if there is no consequence.

Similar to the physical distancing recommendation, I frequently see people playing contact sports and there is not much that we can do.

Thanks,
Caroline

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----
From: Karen McTernan <kabeth55@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face masks

I am very much in favor of requiring people to wear face masks in public

Sent from my iPhone

From: Vivian Weller <vivianweller81@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10:16 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Mandatory masks

Good morning,

I don't think it is legal to **require** the use of face masks when in public. I would suggest the Town seek the advice of their legal expert.

An employer can require the use of a face mask while working and they will.

To suggest or advise the use of one is sufficient.

Sincerely,
Vivian Weller

-----Original Message-----
From: Julie P Cordonnier <jcordonnier1@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Comment for Emergency Order/Regulation meeting

To the Needham Board of Health,

Thank you for your request for comments from Needham citizens. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on requiring wearing face masks during this pandemic. In short, I am against it. Firstly, the order needs to be even more specific. How will the order be enforced and how long will it last? Also, it seems a little late. We are weeks into this and passing the surge in Massachusetts. Just from my observation, it seems that all or nearly all in Needham are wearing masks. It's clear the population has educated themselves and take personal responsibility seriously. I think a more collaborative approach

between town government and its residents is what's needed to keep everyone safe and also to avoid face mask burn-out / fatigue after these many weeks . I believe more public service announcements to educate us would be appreciated. One idea: What if you worked with citizen volunteers to disseminate safety information via their social media outlets?

Thanks for your consideration.

Julie Cordonnier

-----Original Message-----
From: Olivia Kahn-Boesel <livkb12@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: In support of a mask requirement

Hello,

I am writing to show my support for putting a mask requirement in place in Needham. Considering that most other towns and cities have already enacted this rule, it seems imperative that Needham does the same. As a public health student and a soon-to-be medical student at Harvard medical school, I can vouch for the importance of mask use, as countless studies have shown the decreased germ transmission that occurs when ALL individuals are wearing masks. It is not as protective for only some to wear masks— the greatest benefit will occur only if all are wearing masks. If people do not have masks, a bandana or scarf should be acceptable; however, the town could also consider distributing masks to make sure that access to masks is not an issue.

I think we all would like this to end sooner rather than later, and having a universal mask policy, ideally punishable by fine, will get us one step closer to a world in which it is safe to venture outside.

Thanks for your consideration.

Olivia Kahn-Boesel
Tufts Biology and Public Health Class of 2020 Harvard Medical School Class of 2024

From: David Katsnelson <dimakat@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face covering regulation

Dear Board of Health,

I strongly oppose regulation requiring face coverings in public in our town. This regulation would need to be enforced which would create an enforcement burden on our police and a backlash in the community as well as reduce tourism.

I believe in the consideration and good will of Needhamites and visitors who want to protect themselves and others and the business acumen of proprietors who are driven to create safe and welcoming environment for their customers. Additionally, neither I nor my family will patronize any Needham establishments as long as this order is in place.

The Town of Needham is welcome to post advisories but please don't make it mandatory to wear face coverings.

Sincerely,
David Katsnelson

From: Frederica Saylor <fredericasaylor@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:35 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Masks

To Whom It May Concern,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you all for the arduous work you have been doing during this time!

Second, I would like to address the issue of masks. I have been making and donating masks for weeks now, so I am clearly in favor of having protective coverings when in dense indoor spaces. I agree that in buildings where the public congregates (stores, hospitals, etc) they should be mandated. I would also say that unless someone is actively coughing or sneezing, masks do very little if people are adequately distancing. The concern for the spread would likely be higher from direct contact like grocery carts or touch pads. Nevertheless, I think masks do help lower concern, which greatly lowers the stress of going out. This alone is a public health benefit. I would say that mandating masks in outdoor spaces would actually have the opposite effect. When people are out, they are usually breathing more heavily than usual - which is much harder with a mask. I think the result would be that more people would opt to stay indoors as a result, which would lower activity level and increase depression. With regard to outdoor spaces, I think the social distancing should remain the recommendation - and those who wish to wear masks as an added precaution can do so.

I recognize that you are managing many issues and concerns right now at a time when best practices seem to change daily. I fear, though, that we are beginning to operate under the belief that if we all stay in, that will be the solution. My fear is that - from a public health standpoint - we are reaching a breaking point, and as a community we need to come up with some ideas so that families don't break down, children do not have long term emotional health issues, the suicide rate does not increase (there has been an alarming increase recently in suicides). As a town, perhaps we can consider small changes. For example, might it be possible for the town sports to resume? They play outdoors, spectators can be spread around, coaches can wear masks. This might be a morale boost for many people! We also could survey which businesses are most struggling and come up with a plan to help. I am afraid the current situation is untenable - and the long term effects from a health perspective might be far greater than the

risk of the virus itself at this point. We appear to be flattening the curve - is there an opportunity to revisit some of these issues?

Thank you for your time,

Frederica Lalonde

From: Betty Bekker <bettybekker@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Vote for Face masks

I am a registered nurse, and I believe that everyone should be wearing a face mask inside a building that may not allow for social distancing such as grocery stores. Surgical masks only work if everyone is wearing them.

A few issues we need to think about:

1. Making face masks accessible and affordable to all.
2. Providing a bin to discard masks outside of stores/blgs to cut down on the PPE littered in parking lots.
3. Teaching people how to properly use masks.

The way I see most people handling their face masks and gloves render it all useless, and provide false security. I'm not talking about the clowns who wear the mask over the mouth but not the nose. I'm talking about the majority, who believe they are taking this very seriously, and believe they are safe because they are wearing a mask. You see them constantly adjust the mask and then touch their phone. Or they get outside and take it off with their now dirty gloves and stuff the mask in their purse.

Therefore, if this rule passes for masks, I think Needham should provide education about proper masks handling and provide links for those who need help acquiring these masks for free.

Thank you for taking the time,

Betty Bekker

--
Betty

-----Original Message-----
From: Robert Ciccolo <LT9006@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Mask/Health Department Order

I would prefer to see the order have a set 30-60 day expiration date that requires further public comment before renewal.

Robert Ciccolo
67 Peacedale Rd
Needham, MA.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Be Kind Needham <bekindneedham@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:36 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Emergency Meeting on Face Covering

To: Needham Board of Health
RE: 3pm Town Hall Emergency Meeting on Face Covering Requirement

Masks are an essential piece of the fight against COVID-19. Together with social distancing and hand washing we can more effectively protect ourselves. Like an immunization, however, the effectiveness may only be as strong as the number of individuals wearing the masks. Masks/face coverings provide a barrier to our exterior world but also prevent the spread of the virus from us if we are unknowingly infected.

Information and education are critical in this fight as well. We are a group of concerned citizens that have been working to provide fabric masks to senior citizens in Needham. These masks have been sewn and donated by Needham residents. Our masks include a set of instructions for wear and care that has been approved by the Needham Board of Health. We are in favor of residents wearing masks/face coverings in stores to aid in protection of themselves and their fellow shoppers and store staff. Information must also be provided to the public on how to wear the mask as well as washing instructions. This information could be present on the door fronts to stores as well as published in the Needham Times as a flyer that could be saved by households and posted in their home for reference. We must make this information available to all residents and coordinate efforts to provide masks and education to those unable to obtain masks for themselves either due to financial difficulties or lack of access.

We ask you to take the following into consideration for the overall health of the community:

1. Insist that masks or face coverings be worn in stores and publicly visited areas
2. Provide instruction on proper use and care
3. Create a mechanism to reach out to the community to ensure all residents have access to masks AND instructions

Sincerely,
Co-Founders of the Be Kind Needham Senior Masks Project
Khristy Thompson, Ph.D.

Jean Higgins, Creator of Be Kind Needham
Sarah Heath
Robyn Glazier

From: Rogers, Michael <Michael.Rogers@childrens.harvard.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:50 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Order re: Face Coverings

As a Needham resident I write to comment on the proposed order requiring face coverings in Needham. While I do not oppose advice recommending face coverings, this order has several flaws that should be addressed.

1) The requirement that masks be cloth would seem to exclude surgical and N95 masks, the latter of which is superior in preventing infection both of the wearer and their contacts.
2) Soiled masks can serve as fomites. If a mask is to be required, then clean masks should be specified.
3) Outdoor transmission seems to be vanishingly rare, with sunlight decreasing virus half-life by 3600x to <120 seconds. Masks are most likely to be useful in preventing indoor transmission and limited the order to such settings seems best supported by available evidence.
4) As immunity to this pathogen increases, the utility of this order will fall rapidly. Thus a sunset provision (e.g. 30-60 days) should be included.

Dr. Michael S. Rogers

From: Jill Kahn <jillk222@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:30 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>; Selectboard <Selectboard@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Mandatory Wearing of Face Coverings inside Needham shops & stores

Hello,

Of course face coverings should be mandatory, starting right away. There really is no other rational, science-based side to this issue.

Presently, about two-thirds of folks are wearing face coverings inside stores. Two-thirds or even three-quarters is not enough. This needs to be 100% in order to be effective. We all need to be as healthy and as safe as possible.

Signs need to be prominently placed outside each business stating that Emergency Regulation # such and such **REQUIRES** (not recommends!) the use of a covering over one's nose and mouth in order to enter the premises, and that this Emergency Regulation is in effect until further notice. At the grocery stores, an employee or a police officer should be enforcing this. Where my daughter attends college in Medford, this is strictly enforced, even in the line to get into the grocery store. Several days ago, someone in line at the Whole Foods in Medford was asked to step out of line and was told to come back

into line when they returned with a face covering. This needs to likewise be strictly implemented and enforced in Needham.

Currently, there is a sign on the door of Roche Bros. and Sudbury Farms which reads, "Attention. In cooperation with the CDC recommendation and the Governor's request, please wear a face mask before entering the store." That sign is a request, not a requirement. A request is not enough! When I was in Sudbury Farms two days ago, there were three shoppers not wearing a mask or face covering. This made me feel very uncomfortable and unsafe. CVS likewise **requests** that shoppers wear a mask. Not only do some shoppers at CVS not wear a mask, but a number of CVS employees also do not wear masks. Last week, I was in line inside CVS in Needham Center. A woman walked by those of us in line to pay and let out a loud and messy sneeze. The other shoppers and I quickly turned away and moved back, but this was **very disconcerting**. A CVS employee asked the sneezing woman if she could bring wipes to her. The shopper replied "No, I'm leaving now," and turned to go out the back exit. Walgreen's is similar. Some shoppers wear masks, some don't. Some Walgreen's employees wear masks, some don't. This is terrible and very unsafe.

On the signs on doors, and inside stores, there needs to also be a poster or two that states that removing the mask inside the store is not allowed. I was recently at Trader Joe's and an older gentleman had lifted up his mask to speak to someone on the phone about what type of chicken he should buy! I waited about 10 feet away until he finished his conversation (which lasted several minutes) before I would go closer to the chicken, near where he had been speaking freely on his phone, no mask covering his nose or mouth. Unclean and unsafe!

Additionally, more efforts can and should be made to get masks into the hands of shoppers. Some folks aren't on social media and don't know how or where to find masks. Communication needs to be improved in this area. I suggest using the large billboard at Memorial Park as one way to convey information on how and where to find masks. A mailing to each household should also be in the works on this, and soon please.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jill C. Kahn
44 Brookline Street
30 year Needham resident and 22 year Precinct I Town Meeting Member

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-----Original Message-----
From: Lucia Posada <luciadeadela@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:41 PM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Emergency order mandating face covering

The use of a face covering will not eliminate the Covid 19 virus. This is a measure to make the public feel better, as well as those of you in the position to impose this on of the citizens of Needham. Better

to focus on our at risk population and getting our economy open. Tread carefully with your urge to police a free a society. It is extremely worrisome that your proposed ordinance leaves the expiration date open rather following the Governor's timeline. It also leaves it up to your discretion as to who will be policing and enforcing this community with regard to this ordinance.
"They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety". Benjamin Franklin

I implore you to tread carefully.
L.Posada

From: Tim Cannistraro <tim.cannistraro@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 4:50 AM
To: Health Department <HealthDepartment@needhamma.gov>
Subject: Face Coverings

To the Board of Health,

I hope you take the time to read my letter as it addresses my concerns with the Order that you propose.

Thank you for your service,
Timothy Cannistraro

Sent from my iPhone

PLEASE SEE 5-page letter from Tim Cannistraro

April 28, 2020

To the Board of Health,

I thank you for your service to Needham in these very strange times. It has been very common for everyone to address this time in our lives as a "time of great uncertainty." Although I acknowledge the sentiment, I do not agree with it. The reasons why I do not agree with it I will mention in this letter to you in hopes that you will be able to gain a different perspective on the situation at hand and that you will be deterred from making a grave mistake by passing the Emergency Face Covering Order.

I want to start with how very proud I am that Needham has been able to come together during this difficult time and really keep COVID19 almost 100% out of our community. I have seen businesses step up with the use of PPE, curbside delivery, only take out, Harvey's not allowing any customers inside the store and doing all Transactions outside of the building even in the rain and many more examples. I have seen some people, by choice, wearing masks and social distancing to help keep the rate of infection in this city low. When I say low I mean almost non existent. Let me show you exactly how low our infection rate has been in Needham.

All of these numbers are directly from Needham.gov and the releases that the town has put out on a sporadic basis. As of 4/27 Needham has 156 confirmed cases of COVID19. New information that was released on 4/27 states that there have been 33 deaths in the town of Needham, that have been reported, through 4/27. Also on 4/14 Needham revealed that there were a total of 108 cases in the whole town. The total increase in cases in a 14 day period between 4/14-4/27 has been 48 cases. In Needham the population was 32,485 in 2018.

Percentage of Infection in the town of Needham: 0.0048%

156
÷ 32485

0.00480221640757

Percentage of Infection increase in 14 day period (4/14-4/27): 0.0014%

48
÷ 32485

0.00147760504848

Percentage of Death from Covid 19 in the town of Needham: 0.0010%

33
÷ 32485

0.00101585347083

I am sure you are all well aware of these numbers since you have found it necessary to Vote on an Emergency Order of Public Health in regards to these statistics. Now forgive me if I missed something in my calculations but it appears that we are probably leading Massachusetts by having one of the lowest infection rates. If we take these numbers at face value we have 0% across the board. When you get more specific the town of Needham has climbed 1/10 of 1 percentage point in the past two weeks.

Now there was a section in the 4/14 COVID19 update that is posted on needham.gov website that states,

What Explains the Increase in Case Numbers?

You may be wondering what is driving the increase in reported cases of COVID-19 in Needham. This is, in part, due to increased testing capacity at long term care, nursing and assisted living facilities with the help of the Massachusetts National Guard. The State has prioritized deploying the National Guard to these facilities to test and treat this vulnerable population. Needham Public Health along with the MA Department of Public Health is working closely with these facilities to ensure adequate safeguards are in place to protect staff, residents, and the broader community. As testing capacity increases for the general population, as well, we can expect to see a higher incident of cases. We continue to remind people to take all precautions to flatten the curve:

- Stay home as much as possible;
- Practice social distancing when out of the home;
- Wear a face mask outside of the home;
- Wash your hands regularly

It's important to remember that most people who are confirmed to have COVID-19 recover. For more state data, visit www.mass.gov/coronavirus."

Now here you are telling us that a large increase in reported cases were due to Long term care, nursing, and assisted living facilities and not in the General population who would be having to adhere to this "Emergency Order of Public Health." The town of Needham also claimed that as the testing capacity increases we can expect to see a higher incident of cases. This has been proven false by the percentage of cases in the town only increasing by the smallest fraction of a percent that is possible. The town of Needham then goes on to continue to remind people to take all precautions to flatten the curve. I have a question for the board that I wish to have answered directly during the Town Hall Meeting.

How much flatter do you want the curve to be in the town of Needham since it is already the smallest it can possibly be at 0.0049%?

I ask this question because in the order you state how long this order will last and I quote:
"This emergency order shall take effect on Wednesday April 29, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. and shall remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to the Board of Health's judgement, that the Public Health Emergency no longer exists."

Pursuant to the Board of Health's judgment, that the Public Health Emergency no longer exists, What will be the exact Judgment used in order to come to a conclusion that the "Public Health Emergency" no longer exists when it exists in the smallest fraction of a percentage already? I want to let the Board of Health know that this is expected to be in the general population for at least 18 months before the quickest vaccine might become available. You might want to keep something on the sidelines in case this thing gets out of hand, which is very unlikely seeing what the numbers have been without this strict ruling.

All of the laws that you cite at the bottom of page 1 are consistent around the fact that there is an actual Emergency or Danger of infectious disease within our community. Yet with the community already practicing most of the measures that you are declaring in this order and keeping the infection rate under 1%, you want to pass an Order that violates our civil liberties and dictates our freedom. You want to place a burden on the police of Needham to be your enforcers and warn/ticket people for not wearing a mask covering THEIR own mouth and nose when they go into a PRIVATE business.

It's terrible already that the state government is potentially killing hundreds of small businesses in the Town of Needham with the restrictions that are already in place and the precautions that business voluntarily did on their own but to now move over to the tax paying citizens and try to dictate our actions. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

A couple other things in this Order that disturb me are as follows:
"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."

So a three year old would have to wear a face mask when he goes into a store with his parents and if not could be met with justified scorn from neighbors or the police. No government should have the right to tell anyone how to raise their kid unless they have shown they can not keep the child safe. This emergency order does not prove at all, that by not wearing a mask my child is at an increased risk of being infected. If people are nervous of MY child infecting them, they should practice social distancing and wear a face covering by their own choice. I want to use

this opportunity to point out to the Board that the **average age of infection in massachusetts is 54. The average age of Hospitalization from infection is 69, Average age of death from infection is 82.** I understand that we want to protect everyone in our community but nowhere in this Order do you provide rules or instructions to address the ages that are statistically proven to be more affected by this.

Instead you go on to say, ***"6.) Operation of Ice Cream Trucks is Prohibited. Ice cream trucks will not be permitted to operate in the Town of Needham until a determination has been made by the Needham Board of Health that their business operations can be safely conducted without increasing the risk of infection. Brick and mortar establishments serving ice cream will be allowed to operate in accordance with the Governor's Directive if effective social distancing measures are implemented."*** Now this comes directly from a post of a resident on the Needham Town facebook group where they took a picture of 2 kids, could have been brother and sister, getting ice cream from the ice cream truck and publicly shamed them without blurring out their faces.

I have shown in my statement that this does not support the laws that would allow the board of health to impose such restrictions in a case of an emergency or risk to the health of the population and public with the data and percentages I have listed previously. By instituting this Order as referred to in this letter, you will be violating my civil liberties and freedoms that are protected by the Massachusetts Constitution specifically Article CVI.

"All people are born free and equal and have certain natural, essential and unalienable rights; among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties;"

If this order does go through, I will be reaching out to THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS under direction from The Attorney General per memorandum dated April 27, 2020. In order to start the process of a civil lawsuit for above stated reasons.

I want to end this open letter with words taken from the above Memorandum written by The Attorney General. He writes, **"Many policies that would be unthinkable in regular times have become commonplace in recent weeks, and we do not want to**

unduly interfere with the important efforts of state and local officials to protect the public. But the Constitution is not suspended in times of crisis. We must therefore be vigilant to ensure its protections are preserved, at the same time that the public is protected."

I want to thank you for your time and I hope that you can do the right thing by not passing this order as it has been proposed and continue to let the citizens of Needham show you how they can flatten the curve on their own.

Yours Truly,

Timothy Cannistraro
Needham Resident