



Public Health Advisory

Needham Board of Health will rescind its mask order effective May 29th, 2021.

May 28th, 2021

The Needham Board of Health will rescind its mask order effective on May 29th, 2021. This has been done to align with the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts' revised Mask Requirement](#) that will take effect the same day; in addition to aligning with state guidance, this change appropriately reflects the low volume of cases in Needham as well as the Town's high vaccination rate across all age groups.

The Needham Public Health Division advises residents and visitors who are unvaccinated, immunocompromised or are otherwise at increased risk from COVID-19 to continue wearing masks in public where social distancing of six feet or more cannot be maintained and anytime indoors or within large crowds.

For individuals who are partially vaccinated, it is important that you continue to wear a face covering or mask to help prevent you from spreading COVID-19 to other people until you are fully vaccinated. People who show no symptoms of illness may still be able to spread COVID-19. Even though the infection rate is low in Needham and the vaccination rate is high, some residents have not yet been able to receive the vaccine and the virus can still pose a threat.

For those individuals who are fully vaccinated— defined as 2 weeks after the second shot of *Moderna* or *Pfizer* vaccine or 2 weeks after the single dose of *Johnson & Johnson* vaccine—you may resume activities as you had before the pandemic began.

Following state requirements, all residents and visitors, regardless of their vaccination status, must continue to wear masks in certain facilities and places of work. These include:

- Public/private transportation systems (MBTA, Uber/Lyft, etc.);
- Healthcare facilities and providers, congregate care settings, homecare workers, and health and rehabilitative day services; and
- Indoors for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers.

A full list of all places where residents and visitors must continue to wear masks can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/maskrules>.

Those who wish to continue wearing face coverings may do so, and businesses may individually choose to maintain COVID-19 precautions including the use of face coverings, social distancing, senior hours and more.