



Policy

RELATIVE TO FACE COVERINGS

Purpose:

Due to rising and falling cases of COVID-19 and all of its variants, the Town of Enfield, NH's Board of Selectmen (Select Board) has determined the importance of having a policy to guide decision making. With varying opinions and concerns, the Select Board feels it is appropriate to have a policy based on data and not emotions or opinions, and hereby adopts the following policy, based on the risk level assigned to Grafton County by the Center for Disease Control, relative to face coverings in public buildings.

Background:

Infectious diseases are caused by germs, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Some diseases can be spread from person to person very easily through respiratory droplets. Public Health Officials have determined that it is possible for an infected individual to transmit certain diseases without exhibiting any symptoms. One of the best means of slowing the spread of diseases is through minimizing close personal contact with individuals in a public environment (known as physical distancing), covering your mouth and nose by wearing a face covering and the use of proper hygiene (such as handwashing and sanitizing). The wearer should prevent the spread of disease by not touching their face, nose, or eyes with unwashed hands and not touching the outside of the face covering at all times. Lastly, individuals should employ physical distancing by keeping at least six feet between themselves and others to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets.

Policy:

- Once Grafton County is elevated to level of high risk for COVID-19 infection, based on data supplied by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>), for three or more consecutive days, all residents and visitors attending any Town of Enfield event or meeting in an enclosed location, or in public spaces within municipal offices, will be required to wear a face covering.

What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay <u>up to date</u> with COVID-19 vaccines <u>Get tested</u> if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are <u>at high risk for severe illness</u>, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions Stay <u>up to date</u> with COVID-19 vaccines <u>Get tested</u> if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a <u>mask</u> indoors in public Stay <u>up to date</u> with COVID-19 vaccines <u>Get tested</u> if you have symptoms Additional precautions may be needed for people <u>at high risk for severe illness</u>

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. Masks are recommended in indoor public transportation settings and may be required in other places by local or state authorities.


- This requirement will be removed once Grafton County is not determined to be at high risk of infection, based on data supplied by the CDC, for one or more consecutive weeks.
- The Town Manager will have authority to implement mask requirements for Town Employees, during work hours, when they are working outside of a public meeting or event.
- For the purposes of this policy a “face covering” is defined as a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers at least the nose, mouth, and surrounding areas of the lower face. A face covering may be factory made, homemade, or improvised from ordinary household material.
- Notwithstanding the above, per CDC guidelines, this order does not require children under two years of age to wear face coverings.
- A face covering is also not required to be worn by any person who can show that a medical professional has advised them that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to them for health-related reasons. However, in these cases, special effort should be taken to maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals.

This order shall be effective immediately and shall continue in effect until rescinded by action of the Enfield Selectboard.

Signature page to follow:

Adopted on this day: September 19, 2022

By the Enfield, NH Selectboard:



John W. Kluge- Board Chair



Katherine D.P. Stewart



Erik Russell